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celeb buzz p/26

Kidman prepares music for birth

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social eyes pg 21

Lions kick off their season

New look first of many great things to come

NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE. Metro has a fresh new look today, designed to help you navigate our daily menu of news, columns, features, tips, recipes, gossip and games.

And we're not just a pretty face. Over the next few months, watch for our selection of the best columnists from across the country. Let our Vancouver newsroom keep you up to date on everything that's important in our city.

Read more about our new design on page 7. METRO VANCOUVER

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15-year-old sea lion loses cancer battle

Beijing 2008 page 14

Injuries may keep athletes from Games

Entertainment page 24

Anne Hines learns to love thong undies

Sports page 13

Canucks offer $20 million for Sundin

Please recycle

No end to 'axe the tax'

NDP says carbon tax protest will continue until election in May

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

B.C.'s New Democrats hope to drive their "axe the gas tax" campaign through to May's provincial election, Leader Carole James said yesterday.

Gas prices rose 2.4 cents a litre across the province yesterday with the implementation of B.C.'s carbon tax — the first of its kind in North America.

"We're going to keep this campaign up," said James outside a Chevron station on Kingsway that advertised prices of $1.52 cents per litre.

"It's not going to end just because it's July 1st. … We're going to take this right through to the election."

At many places across the Lower Mainland the price exceeded $1.50 per litre yesterday, among the highest in Canada.

Across the country gas ranged from as low as about $1.30 in Calgary to $1.34 in Ottawa and $1.42 in Halifax, where price is regulated by government.

"It's ridiculous," said Tracy Dinh, 25, at the Kingsway Chevron. "It's affecting my family. It's affecting food prices."

Jenna Walter, 21, filling up at an Esso station at Davie and Burrard streets, said she was trying not to think about the high prices.

"We have to use gas," Walter said. "What can we do about it? It's probably not going to have a big impact on my life."

WITH FILES FROM JOYCE YIP

projected carbon tax figures

The carbon tax is scheduled to increase gradually over the next five years, reaching 7.2 cents per litre by 2012.
It will generate $1.8 billion over three years, but is considered revenue neutral, because it returns the money in terms of tax breaks, credits and a $100 dividend cheque.

Canada Day **Fireworks back with a bang**

BAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Spectators aboard boats on English Bay take in last night's Canada Day fireworks. More Canada Day coverage page 6.

Morgentaler awarded Order of Canada

CONTROVERSY. The decision to award pro-choice crusader Dr. Henry Morgentaler the Order of Canada yesterday on Canada Day set off a flurry of reactions ranging from disgust to congratulations.

"Canada's highest honour has been debased. Henry Morgentaler has been awarded the Order of Canada. We are all diminished," Most Rev. Thomas Collins, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Toronto, said in a statement issued after the award was announced by Governor General Michaëlle Jean.

Feminist Judy Rebick, the outspoken former president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, described the award to Morgentaler as long overdue and the reaction from the pro-life supporters as predictable. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Lions ticket drive
The B.C. Lions are holding a drive-thru ticket drive today for Friday's game versus the Saskatchewan Roughriders. The drive will be held at the PNE near the wooden roller-coaster from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Red paper-clip trader taking offers on house

Port Moody's Kyle MacDonald, who bartered his way to a house from a red paper clip, is making another trade — this time his Saskatchewan home. He'll be accepting offers until July 11 and hopes to make the trade on July 14. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Beloved sea lion dies

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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The Vancouver Aquarium's 15-year-old Stellar sea lion, Tag, died early yesterday after undergoing treatment for oral cancer.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VANCOUVER AQUARIUM

Tag, the Vancouver Aquarium's 15-year-old Stellar sea lion, died yesterday following surgery.

The sea lion had suffered from oral and dental problems for 10 years before being diagnosed with cancer in the winter. He went through chemotherapy and laser surgery in the spring.

After animal care staff noticed abnormal bleeding in his mouth, aquarium staff vet Martin Haulena decided to perform surgery to assess how much the cancer had spread and to control some of the bleeding.

"Unfortunately … he didn't do great under anesthesia," Haulena said. "He did recover but he died about three or four hours after the completion of the procedure."

Haulena said the death has had a "huge" impact on the aquarium community.

"He's one of those regal, big, beautiful animals with a kind soul," he said, breaking down into tears.

"I've been trying to explain (this) to my four-year-old daughter. Tag was her favourite. He was a major part of our world and very much loved."

As to whether there will be a memorial service, Haulena said it's too early to know.

"Most of us are just coming to terms with this. ... There's certainly been a lot of talk and reminiscing," he said.

"(Tag was) just one of those special creatures that was such a big privilege to work with."

two weeks old

Tag was two weeks old when he arrived at the aquarium in 1993, as part of a University of B.C.-led project to study the disappearing Stellar sea lion species.

Heart attack likely cause of death

Man fought with transit police on bus

A man who got into a fight with transit police and RCMP on a Surrey bus has died in hospital, likely from a heart attack, police said yesterday.

The man, who was in his 20s but whose name has not been released, had been on life support since Friday.

Police said he had been on a bus leaving the Newton transit loop when the driver allegedly noticed the passenger acting erratically.

The driver called Coast Mountain Bus security and when two transit police showed up a fight broke out.

RCMP officers came to help subdue the man, who then went into medical distress.

Paramedics treated him at the scene before he was taken to Surrey Memorial Hospital in critical condition.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

News in brief

SHOOTING A Ridge Meadows RCMP officer was shot at while conducting a routine traffic stop, news1130.com reports. The incident occurred Monday while attempting to pull over a white Chevy van on Wicklow Way in Maple Ridge. The driver of the van drove off and the officer suffered no injuries.

PARTNERSHIP B.C. has partnered with four U.S. states in the Pacific Coast Collaborative, an agreement to co-operate on green strategies along the West Coast. They will collaborate on issues including clean energy, regional transportation and transit.

EUTHANIZED A racehorse was euthanized on Sunday after limping after a race at Hastings Racecourse, news1130.com reports. The horse suffered from a shoulder injury. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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BC is taking action against global warming.

Many parts of BC have been warming at a rate that is twice the global average. It isn't hard to see the impact that climate change has already had on our province: the mountain pine beetle epidemic, the storms that devastated Stanley Park, the floods of 2007, the loss of water supply to over 900,000 people in 2006, the wildfires of 2003 and the depletion of our glaciers.

These effects of global warming have already taken a heavy toll on our economy, our natural resources and people's homes and livelihoods. It's clear that it's hurting our province. It's time for all of us to take action.

- 11 of the last 12 years were among the warmest ever since 1850.
- Over the last century, BC has lost up to 50 per cent of its snow packs, and glaciers have melted away.
- Warm winters have created the mountain pine beetle epidemic.
- 80 per cent of our pine forests will be "red and dead" by 2013.

How you can benefit from BC's carbon tax shift.

On July 1, 2008 we're introducing a carbon tax on fossil fuel emissions. What this means to you is 2.34 cents per litre added to your cost of gas. In BC, 36% of all greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation. It's estimated that BC's carbon tax will save up to 3 million tonnes of CO^2 emissions annually, this is equal to taking nearly 790,000 cars off the road each year.

With even small adjustments you can reduce your fuel usage. In fact, most drivers can offset their carbon tax with one less fill-up per year.

By law, every penny of the carbon tax must be used to cut other taxes.

In fact, over the next 3 years, over $1.8 billion will be returned to individuals and businesses in reduced taxes.

You choose, you save.

- If you drive only 5% less a year, you can typically save twice what you will pay in carbon tax over the next two years.
- If you drive a Ford Ranger 30,000 Km per year, you can save $535 on fuel by driving 10% less. That's over five times more in savings than the $84 you would otherwise pay this year in carbon tax.
- If you are buying a new car or truck, you can save up to $4,000 this year in sales tax by choosing a fuel-efficient vehicle.
- Trade-in your old vehicle for a cleaner one and you can save up to $2,000 or more under the expanded province-wide "Scrap-it" program.
- Keeping your car or truck tuned up and your tires properly inflated can save you $200 a year in fuel costs.

Income taxes go down on July 1st.

New tax relief is a key part of the carbon tax shift. On July 1st, 2008 we are reducing income taxes. On July 1st, 2009 they will be reduced again. While pollution will cost more, income will be taxed less and take-home pay will grow. Lower income earners will be eligible for an additional tax credit and every woman, man and child in BC will receive a $100 cheque from the Climate Action Dividend.

Businesses will also see their income taxes cut over the next few years to become the lowest in Canada. As well, other new measures will provide new sales tax exemptions, financial incentives and cash rebates to reward "carbon smart" choices. These are all in an effort to conserve energy, reduce waste, increase fuel efficiency and promote cleaner transportation.

- British Columbia has the lowest personal income taxes in Canada at every level up to $111,000.
- New tax cuts will save most families between $100 and $400 this year, net of the carbon tax, even if they do nothing to reduce their emissions.
- A single parent earning $30,000 per year, with one child, will typically save $285 net of their carbon tax this year and will save $196 net next year.
- Since 2001, over 100 tax cuts have been introduced in British Columbia.
- All taxpayers earning over $30,000 a year have had their provincial income taxes reduced by at least 30-37%.
- Low income taxpayers earning under $20,000 a year have had a 75% tax cut since 2001.
- Provincial income taxes were eliminated completely for everyone earning under $15,500 a year; 250,000 more citizens now pay no provincial income taxes at all.

It's time to lead on climate change.

Together, we can meet BC's new legal target to reduce our provincial greenhouse gas emissions by 33% over the next 12 years. It won't be easy and it will oblige us all to change. But, we can achieve that target in ways that will save us energy, time and money, while also improving our air, water quality, and stimulating innovation, investment and job creation.

We can't wait for others to tackle global warming. Waiting for others to act is not a solution; it's just an avoidance of our responsibility. Unless we act today, it will be our children and their families who will pay the biggest price.

The time has come to act – to reduce our own emissions and lighten our carbon footprint. That is what BC's new carbon tax shift is all about.

It's our choice, It's their future

To learn more about how you can benefit from BC's climate action plan, check out LiveSmartBC.ca

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Canada's newest citizens sworn in
Eighty people from 45 countries were sworn in as new Canadians in Vancouver yesterday. The ceremony was part of the city's Canada Day celebrations. METRO VANCOUVER

PHOTOS BY RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Racers hurtle by the corner of Hamilton and Helmecken streets during the Women's B.C. Cup in the Yaletown Grand Prix yesterday.

Bikes and fireworks

Grand Prix, sparkling skies highlights of Canada Day

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

After four long years, Van's events go off with a bang.

Thousands of people lined Vancouver's seawalls last night to take in Canada Day fireworks, which until last year had taken a four-year hiatus because of violence at the annual celebration.

The 25-minute show was set on two barges in the Burrard Inlet so viewers in several communities could watch the skies light up.

Earlier in the day, hundreds of cyclists took to the streets for the fourth annual Yaletown Grand Prix bike race.

Mary-Anne McKinnon, who lives in Kitsilano, said watching the cyclists was a great way to spend the afternoon.

"It's a nice day, fast track, good-looking guys," she said, adding that because the track is a short loop, you can see the racers coming quickly.

"They're going unbelievably fast."

"It's a great venue," added Susan Copland. "And a beautiful day for it."

The top cyclist in the men's professional category was Svein Tuft, who will be competing for Canada in the summer Olympics in Beijing. The winner in the professional women's category was Gillian Moody.

money to burn

Vancouver spent more than any other city, except Ottawa, on its Canada Day fireworks. The city spent $95,000 on the show.

ABOVE: Gillian Moody of the Total Restoration team took first place in the Women's B.C. Cup.

The Symmetrics Cycling train of Svein Tuft, right, Andrew Pinfold and Ryan Anderson thunders by on its way to a top-three sweep in the Yaletown Grand Prix yesterday.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHANNON PHILLIPS

Shannon Phillips holds her son Kayden after both were pepper-sprayed by RCMP officers in Sechelt on July 2, 2007.

Officer cleared of wrongdoing in pepper-spraying revellers

DONNA NG
for Metro Vancouver

The RCMP officer who pepper sprayed a crowd of people in an Aboriginal reserve, including a baby, during a soccer celebration has been cleared of wrongdoing.

The incident took place last Canada Day weekend on the coastal Sechelt reserve, north of Vancouver, news1130.com reports. Members of the Sechelt Indian Band were on the back of a pickup truck celebrating its youth team's success in a soccer tournament when police told them to get off the truck.

Pepper spray was used when the band members refused to stay back while police attempted to arrest the coach, Troy Mayers. His wife, her six-month-old baby and children were among the people sprayed.

Mayers was charged with failing to stop for a police officer and resisting arrest, and is awaiting a judge's decision.

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Law New child restraint laws are now effective in B.C. Children under 9 or shorter than 4-foot-9 are required to sit in a booster seat. Toddlers under age one or under 20 pounds must be rear-facing and away from an airbag. METRO VANCOUVER

Metro's new look

Dear Readers,

Metro has a bright new graphic look today, designed not only to please the eye, but also to help you navigate our daily menu of news, columns, features, tips, recipes, gossip and games.

And it's not just about a prettier face. Our new design also signals a growing commitment to provide you not only with the day's most important stories, but more news you can use — such as our expanded new Health section on Tuesdays, Workology on Mondays and Wednesdays, Travel guides on Wednesdays, fashion and homes pages on Thursdays, and more music and movie reviews on Fridays.

Our crisper, cleaner look also signals other changes, such as our goal to bring you the best columnists from across the country. Watch for award-winning columnists such as Marty York's sports scoops and analysis on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and Anne Hines' humorous HineSight on Tuesdays.

As well, each weekday we bring you the most discerning views on what's on TV with Intellevision columnist Rick McGinnis, while our Thursday edition features Vancouver fashionista Kim Elbo, and our jam-packed Friday entertainment section features Sound Check from Alan Cross, the syndicated host of The Ongoing History Of New Music.

"Our new design also signals a growing commitment to provide you not only with the day's most important stories, but more news you can use."

Metro is also committed to bringing you the best from your local Vancouver writers. Social columnist Catherine Barr takes readers on a VIP tour of the most glamorous parties in Vancouver every Tuesday, while Andrea Woo has the latest gossip on visiting celebrities on Wednesdays.

In sports, Scott Rintoul is the local authority on the Canucks and he scores a weekly hat trick with columns on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Rob McMahon is Metro's man On The Beat — the music beat that is, with a weekend column on the best established and up-and-coming musicians performing in Vancouver.

And this is just the beginning. Over the next few months watch for new features, columns and services in Metro, the No. 1 free daily paper in Canada, aimed to delight, entertain, inform — and help our 950,000 readers joyfully navigate through life.

And don't forget to click on our newly designed website at *www.metronews.ca* for breaking stories, contests — and to view pages from Metro newspapers across Canada in Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Halifax — as well as from the Metro editions published in 21 countries and 100 cities around the world.

Yes, the bright, shiny, new package you're reading today is part of the largest chain of newspapers in the world, celebrated in Guinness World Records — and we're just getting started. Enjoy!

DIANNE RINEHART
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,
METRO ENGLISH CANADA

what do you think?

Let us know by e-mail at *vancouverletters@metronews.ca*

News in brief

RESCUE. Two young men are safe after getting caught midstream while tubing in the Coquitlam River, *cknw.com* reports. On Monday night, the boys, who are believed to be 17 and 19, were brought safely to shore by the water rescue team and were examined by ambulance crews.

HOUSE FIRE. An eight-year-old girl is dead after a Nanaimo house fire, CBC News Online reports. Marsha Sam was trapped in her duplex on Georgia Avenue but her brothers and mother escaped on Monday morning. An RCMP investigation continues, but police suspect the children may have been playing with fire.

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Happy people
Canada, with its democracy, social equality and peaceful atmosphere, is among the top 10 happiest countries in the world, researchers said yesterday. REUTERS

Canada

"It could be a fake bid, too."

Cape Breton musician Ashley MacIsaac has put 50 per cent of his future earnings up for bidding on EBay. Monday night, someone bid $1.5 million.

Bees escape

A truck containing about 12 million bees overturned on a major highway near the town of St. Leonard, N.B., in Eastern Canada yesterday. REUTERS

Kelowna man killed on bike trip

MANITOBA. A Kelowna man and another cyclist were hit and killed by a car while on a cross-country fundraising tour for diabetes research.

On Sunday afternoon, a group of four cyclists were struck by a Honda Civic on the Trans-Canada Highway in western Manitoba, CBC News Online reports. Two men, a 50-year-old and a 45-year-old British Columbian, were killed. Two teens, aged 16 and 19, were also hit and sent to hospital. RCMP are still trying to determine what happened, and added that alcohol did not seem to contribute to the crash. The trip, known as the Ride Of A Lifetime, aimed to raise $500,000 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Canada. JOYCE YIP/METRO VANCOUVER

B.C. man may face 10 years

Former teacher to be sentenced Aug. 15

JOYCE YIP
for Metro Vancouver

The Maple Ridge teacher who admitted to sexually abusing a teenage boy in Thailand will be sentenced on Aug. 15.

A Bangkok court announced on Monday that Christopher Paul Neil, 33, may be facing up to 10 years in prison for sexually abusing a 15-year-old Thai boy, photographing the offence and putting them online, CBC News Online reports.

Christopher Paul Neil pleaded guilty to abuse charges.

Neil pleaded guilty in May to the abuse and to shooting the photographs but denied that he posted them online. He also pleaded not guilty in June to similar charges to the teen's nine-year-old brother. He faces up to 20 years in that case, which goes to court on Oct. 7.

Neil was arrested last October after Interpol released censored photos of him allegedly conducting sexual acts with boys, likely taken in a southeast Asian country, where he had been teaching English since at least 2000.

The photos were digitally obscured when they were initially found online in 2004 and were only unscrambled two years ago by German police computer experts.

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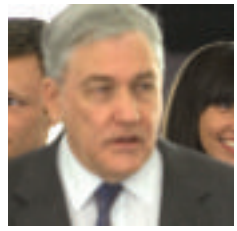
Conrad Black settles apartment lawsuit

NEW YORK. Former media baron Conrad Black settled a lawsuit brought against him by Sotheby's International Realty Inc. claiming that he failed to pay the commission on the $10.5-million sale of his New York apartment.

The terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

Sotheby's alleged in a 2006 lawsuit that Black's attorneys issued a cheque for the $557,000 commission on the Park Avenue apartment but stopped payment on it.

Black said in a statement yesterday that the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago improperly seized the proceeds from the sale, including funds for Sotheby's commission.



Conrad Black has settled a lawsuit with Sotheby's.

Black accused prosecutors of co-ordinating with the buyers to force him to forfeit $9 million in sale proceeds. REUTERS

Giving newcomers a head start

The Government of Canada believes in immigration. We want more newcomers to join us and be an important part of Canada's future. That's why we are improving our immigration system by:

1. Creating a more flexible, fair and responsive immigration system
The changes to Canada's immigration laws will help to attract the skilled workers Canada needs most and ensure families are reunited faster.

2. Helping internationally trained individuals
The Foreign Credentials Referral Office was created in 2007 to help newcomers get the information they need to have their credentials assessed and recognized in Canada.

3. Increasing settlement funding
The Government of Canada has invested $1.4 billion more in settlement funding, which includes language training and job search and employment services to help newcomers succeed and make a new home in Canada.

4. Reducing the Right of Permanent Residence Fee
The federal government reduced the right of permanent residence fee from $975 to $490.

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Canada

Edmonton prison riot
A prison in Edmonton is under lockdown after seven inmates were stabbed and one shot in a prison yard brawl. SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE

Canada

Protecting the Soldier's tomb

War memorial gets increased security

It's been two years since Canada Day revellers urinated on the Tomb of the Unknown Solider.

But the passage of time has not meant a let-up in vigilance against it happening again.

Sentries stood at attention at the War Memorial yesterday to prevent a repeat of the 2006 incident in which photos of men urinating on the monument caused an international uproar.

"I think it's a good step and it brings dignity to the site. This is a place of respect," said retired Maj. Michael Pilon, whose photographs sparked a debate on Canada's respect for its war dead.

"I think it's a good step and it brings dignity to the site."
Maj. Michael Pilon

This year, increased security patrols and a barricade at night complemented the sentries protecting the monument. Thousands stopped for pictures and to speak with soldiers about the sanctity of the monument.

Pilon, who spent some time at the monument yesterday, said sentries occasionally knocked their rifles against the ground to ward people off the tomb.

"After that people would go over and explain the tomb and the monument. It's an educational process. It's really impressive," he said.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Nova Scotia **Cannabis Day — Eh!**

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

Two Nova Scotia marijuana enthusiasts show their support for Cannabis Day yesterday at the Dartmouth Commons. The crowds took part in the annual event of renowned pothead activities, namely sitting, drumming and, of course, playing hacky sack.

News in brief

SASKATCHEWAN. Fire officials in Saskatchewan have either evacuated or are planning to evacuate more than 1,100 residents due to forest fires. Provincial officials said evacuations from other communities bring the total so far to about 1,145, including some removed from communities by plane or bus.

QUEBEC CITY. A Quebec man has died after he landed on high-voltage power lines during his first solo parachute jump. The man was declared dead at hospital after the incident in St.-Jean-Chrysostome.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Edmonton artist's work featured in Clancy novel

ALBERTA Edmonton artist and waterfall creator Peter Lewis couldn't believe his eyes when he flipped through a new Tom Clancy novel and found his name smack in the middle of the page.

The new novel, EndWar, by the prolific author and collaborator, was written based on a war-torn video game, in which Saudi Arabia and Iran have destroyed each other, leaving Russia to try to reclaim global domination.

The finale of the book is set in Alberta. The final battle is set under the High Level Bridge, which is described in great detail, along with Lewis's masterpiece: the Great Divide Waterfall. The book's release coincides with the summer return of the Edmonton landmark waterfall.

waterfall
The waterfall cascaded to life last night as a traditional piece of Edmonton culture on Canada Day.

METRO VANCOUVER

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New York magazine founder dead at 82

Publishing pioneer Clay Felker, who founded influential New York magazine and promoted the "new journalism" style of reporting, died at his Manhattan home yesterday, the magazine said. REUTERS

World

"You cannot consider someone a criminal for drinking two beers."

Norton Luiz Lenhart, president of Brazil's restaurant federation, about tough new drinking and driving laws. REUTERS

anti-Muslim film

Dutch politician Geert Wilders is planning a sequel to his anti-Muslim film Fitna, the local daily De Telegraaf reports. The move comes after the Dutch Ministry of Justice decided not to prosecute him for inciting hatred with his film. REUTERS

Mugabe under pressure

African leaders ask Zimbabwe president to negotiate with opposition

The African Union has made a rare intervention into internal politics, calling for negotiations in Zimbabwe.

President Robert Mugabe returns to Zimbabwe today under pressure from fellow African leaders to form a national unity government in the wake of his re-election in a violent poll ruled unfair by monitors.

An African Union summit in Egypt, attended by Mugabe, approved a resolution calling for him to negotiate with opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, who withdrew from the run-off election because of violence against his supporters.

The resolution fell short of the tougher statement wanted by some African countries, but it was an unprecedented rebuff to Mugabe, previously feted as a liberation hero.

In the strongest public statement from one of Zimbabwe's neighbours since he was sworn in on Sunday, Botswana called for Mugabe to be barred from the AU and the southern African regional body SADC.

"In our considered view ... the representatives of the current government in Zimbabwe should be excluded from attending SADC (Southern African Development Community) and African Union meetings," Botswana Vice-President Mompati Merafhe said.

Botswana said Mugabe's participation in African meetings "would give unqualified legitimacy to a process which cannot be considered legitimate."

Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga has called for Mugabe, 84, to be suspended from the AU after the election.

European Union president France said the EU would only accept a Zimbabwean government led by Tsvangirai, echoing a Western position that Mugabe was an illegitimate leader.

Tsvangirai defeated Mugabe in the first round of the election on March 29 but withdrew from the run-off after he said pro-government militias killed 86 of his supporters. REUTERS

EU position

The European Union will only accept a Zimbabwean government headed by opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, whose country has taken over the EU presidency, said yesterday.

Researchers test 'mystical' mushrooms

SCIENCE The "spiritual" effects of psilocybin from so-called sacred mushrooms last for more than a year and may offer a way to help patients with fatal diseases or addictions, U.S. researchers reported yesterday. The researchers also said their findings show there are safe ways to test psychoactive drugs.

In 2006, Roland Griffiths of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, and colleagues gave psilocybin to 36 volunteers and asked them how it felt. Most reported having a "mystical" or "spiritual" experience and rated it positively. REUTERS

Africans intercepted **Praying for a better future?**

BORJA SUAREZ/REUTERS

A would-be immigrant prays after arriving yesterday at the Puerto Rico beach on Spain's Canary island of Gran Canaria. Some 133 would-be immigrants were intercepted aboard two fishing boats on their way to European soil from Africa, Spanish police said.

Assisted suicide video sparks outrage in Germany

CONTROVERSY. The release of a video showing a former local politician helping a 79-year-old woman commit suicide has caused outrage in Germany and prompted some states to try to tighten their rules on assisted suicide.

Former Hamburg senator Roger Kusch, a prominent right-to-die campaigner, has said he advised the healthy pensioner on how to prepare a lethal cocktail of sedatives and malaria drugs that would kill her and left her shortly before she died.

Kusch filmed nine hours of conversations with Bettina Schardt, who said she dreaded being taken to a home for the elderly. However, she did not have a terminal illness and said: "I can't say that I am suffering."

The subject of euthanasia is particularly sensitive in Germany due to the Nazis, who some historians estimate killed more than 100,000 mentally handicapped or incurably ill people between 1940 and 1945. REUTERS

News in brief

RUSSIA The man suspected of killing Russian reporter Anna Politkovskaya in 2006 is hiding in Western Europe, Russia's chief criminal investigator was quoted as saying yesterday. REUTERS

Monsoon

ARKO DUTTA/REUTERS

Taxis lie stranded on a flooded street during monsoon rains in Mumbai, India, yesterday. A heavy downpour disrupted transport yesterday, with city officials advising citizens to stay indoors.

newspapers

Court action over 'reformist' story

IRAN A court has summoned the managing director of one of Iran's few remaining reformist newspapers for "spreading lies" against hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the student news agency ISNA reported yesterday. The agency did not say when Mohammad Javad Haghshenas will appear in court. REUTERS

60 kids ill after drinking tainted water

More than 60 children fell ill after drinking water that may have been deliberately poisoned at a primary school in southern China, state media reported yesterday.

Thirty-four children were still in hospital, suffering from headaches and nausea, and the rest were under observation at their rural school in Guangxi province after drinking the water in their school canteen, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The water in the school's storage tank smelled of pesticide and police found an empty bottle that they suspected of containing the poison, Xinhua said.

While the investigation is continuing, local education officials have already accused the school of mismanagement, it added.

global scares

Food and drug safety in China has grabbed global attention over the past year after its products sparked scares abroad, from substandard pet feed in the United States to allegedly tainted dumplings in Japan.

Scandals involving substandard food or medicines are reported regularly by Chinese media, and schools have been involved before.

A primary school headmistress was jailed last year for taking kickbacks from an unlicensed food company that indirectly led to nearly 200 children falling ill.

In a separate case last year, a college student was arrested on suspicion of poisoning his classmates' water. REUTERS

Ford names U.S. sales and marketing vice-president
Ford Motor Co yesterday named Ken Czubay, 59, a 38-year auto industry veteran to the post of vice-president of U.S. sales and marketing effective July 16 to assist in the company's sales turnaround efforts. REUTERS

Business

Dollar (Monday)
0.88¢
C$ 98.07¢ US
U.S.$ $1.0197

Oil
$0.97
$140.97 US

Clash over CAW boss?

SHOWDOWN The Canadian Auto Workers union is heading for a showdown over who will replace president Buzz Hargrove.

Hargrove has called early meetings of the CAW's national executive board, top administrators and senior staff for next Tuesday to debate and endorse who will lead the union after he retires. Sources say Hargrove will ask the board and the other groups to endorse Ken Lewenza, president of CAW Local 444 in Windsor, as the next head of the union.

However Hemi Mitic, a veteran assistant of Hargrove, confirmed yesterday he will make a bid for support from the same groups at two separate meetings.

Insiders say an endorsement from the board and staff would be a huge boost toward winning at a national convention of more than 800 delegates.

However, Mitic said even if he doesn't get the key endorsements, he will run for the $150,700-a-year job of leading about 250,000 workers.

Hargrove's call for next week's meetings surprised many union officials who expected him to wait until later in the year or early 2009 before triggering the endorsement process. It also underlines the political intrigue engulfing the hierarchy of the union in recent months about who would replace Hargrove.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

background

Hargrove, who has led the CAW for 16 years, turns 65 next March, the union's mandatory retirement age.
Mitic, the union's former national director of organizing has been an assistant to Hargrove since 1992.
Lewenza, 53, is chair of the union's master bargaining committee at Chrysler.

Housing Heading for crash

DAVID MOIR/REUTERS

A woman walks past property-for-sale and to-let signs in Edinburgh, Scotland yesterday. House prices fell for an eighth straight month in June to stand more than 7 per cent below the peak hit last year, a survey showed, adding to expectations that the once-booming market may crash. REUTERS

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Toyota cuts prices of 11 cars in Canada

TORONTO. Toyota Canada said it is lowering the manufacturer's suggested retail price, or MSRP, by $1,350 to $7,900 on 11 current models, including hybrids, regardless of whether a purchase is by cash, lease or financing.

The sticker price on a base Prius dropped $1,900 to $27,600; the RAV4 sport utility vehicle, $1,350 to $26,050; and the Highlander full-size sport ute, $2,000 to $34,900. Among Lexus models, the company slashed the price of the base LS series $5,700 to $80,100 and the SC series $7,900 to $78,200.

Toyota also noted that June hybrid sales shot up 75 per cent from the same month last year, in response to rising fuel prices. Sales of the Prius, the most popular hybrid in Canada, rocketed 412 per cent.

Among Toyota small cars, the Yaris and Corolla posted increases of 30 and 32 per cent respectively.

Toyota spokesperson Sandy DiFelice said the company has not run into inventory problems for its popular small cars and hybrids here.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

NEW YORK. Oil prices rose yesterday on forecasts global supplies will struggle to keep pace with demand and concerns tensions between Israel and Iran could lead to a disruption of exports from the OPEC nation. REUTERS

BOSTON. Rhode Island's top court yesterday overturned a landmark lower court ruling that found three former manufacturers of lead paint liable for creating a public nuisance by covering up the health risks of lead paint. REUTERS

Remove oil curbs: Exxon

MADRID. Oil producers need to remove barriers to investment to ensure oil markets are well supplied, but are unlikely to do so as long as prices remain high, Exxon Mobil's CEO Rex Tillerson said yesterday.

Oil companies say a dearth of new supplies, not speculators, was driving high oil prices. OPEC blames speculators, rather than a shortage of supply capacity for high oil prices.

REUTERS

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InBev sticks to Anheuser offer

InBev NV stuck to its original $46.3 billion takeover bid for reluctant target Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. and said it would give Anheuser's shareholders a voice in the battle if the U.S. brewer refused to open merger discussions. REUTERS

Starbucks cutting 12,000 U.S. jobs

LOS ANGELES. Starbucks Corp said yesterday it plans to close another 500 underperforming stores and eliminate as many as 12,000 full- and part-time positions.

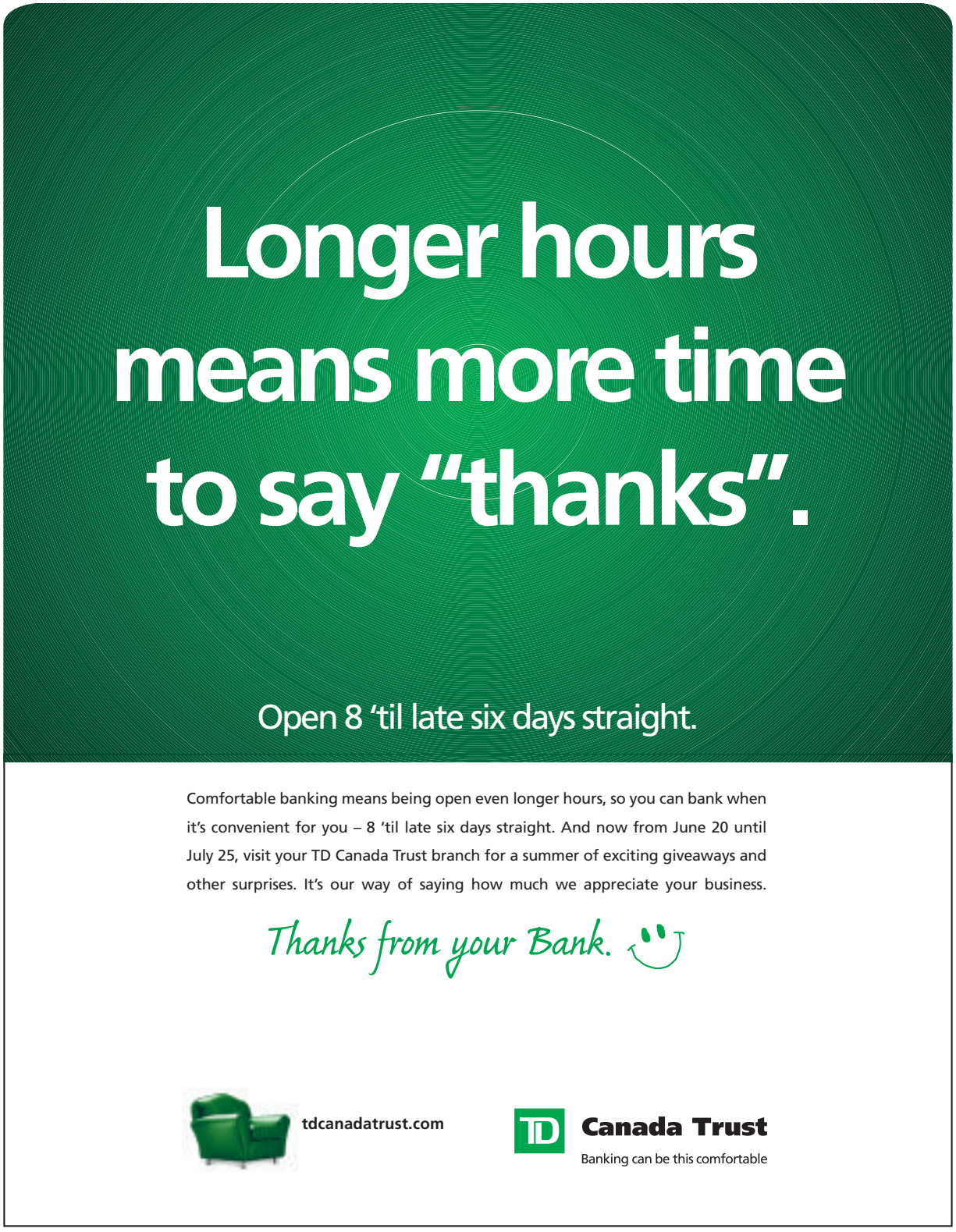
The company, which now plans to close a total of 600 underperforming stores versus its previous estimate of 100, said the majority of the stores will be closed by the end of March 2009.

Starbucks estimated that total pretax charges associated with the planned U.S. company-operated store closures, including costs associated with severance, would be in the range of $328 million US to $348 million US.

America's largest coffee chain said 70 per cent of the stores targeted for closure have been open since the beginning of fiscal 2006. The job losses would represent about 7 per cent of the company's global work force.

The company aggressively opened stores in areas such as California and Florida, which have been hardest hit by the U.S. housing downturn. Some investors have pushed the company to increase the number of store closures.

Starbucks also said it will open fewer stores in 2009. REUTERS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Blockbuster abandons Circuit City acquisition

SAN FRANCISCO. Blockbuster Inc. yesterday abandoned its offer to buy electronics retailer Circuit City Stores Inc., after weeks of investor speculation that the deal was falling apart.

Blockbuster's Chief Executive Jim Keyes cited "market conditions" as a reason for withdrawing the offer, valued at up to $1.3 billion US, and said the deal was not in the best interests of its shareholders.

Blockbuster in April disclosed that it had offered to buy Circuit City in February for $6 to $8 a share, or up to $1.3 billion.

Circuit City issued a statement soon after, saying its previously announced exploration of strategic alternatives is "active and ongoing," and that the process is independent of Blockbuster's participation.

Speculation that a potential deal with Blockbuster would not happen gained ground after Circuit City posted a wider quarterly loss and cut its dividend in June.

Some analysts raised the possibility at the time that Blockbuster might lower its offer or walk away from the deal. Analysts have also questioned the strategic fit of the two companies, and how the acquisition would be financed.

U.S. auto sales hit 15-yr low

DETROIT. U.S. auto sales plunged in June to a 15-year low, but a month-end clearance sale helped General Motors Corp. retain its No. 1 spot and steer clear of the wipeout many had feared.

Record gas prices and declining trade-in values for big trucks and SUVs hit truck sales hard while major automakers, including Toyota Motor Corp., struggled to keep up with demand for some popular smaller cars and hybrids.

GM was the industry's main surprise after a sale featuring zero per cent financing for six years allowed the U.S. automaker to avoid losing sales leadership in the month to Toyota.

In a reversal of recent trends, Toyota trailed GM in June with a 21 per cent sales decline, reflecting a 31 per cent drop in sales of its trucks like the Tundra pickup. REUTERS

Cycling Danish rider Michael Rasmussen has been banned for two years by the Monaco Cycling Federation after he was expelled from last year's Tour de France, the International Cycling Union said yesterday. REUTERS

NBA In the wake of the National Basketball Association's Tim Donaghy gambling scandal, the league yesterday named retired U.S. Army Major General Ronald Johnson to a newly created position to oversee referees. REUTERS

Sports

"I was like, 'Oops, I did it again; I'm out of the semifinals.'"

Elena Dementieva after she survived a mid-match wobble to beat Nadia Petrova and reach Wimbledon's final four.

Baron Clipped

The Los Angeles Clippers have reportedly reached a verbal agreement with point guard Baron Davis on a deal in the range of five years and $65 million US.

Sundin could fix offence

But the sublime Swede would not be a long-term fix for the Canucks

ToulBox

Scott Rintoul
scott.rintoul@metronews.ca

Mats Sundin has Roberto Luongo to thank for the winning lottery ticket Mike Gillis just handed him.

Gillis knows both Canucks' ownership and Luongo are desperate to win now, and neither he nor Luongo will be around in two years unless the Canucks become a legitimate contender. Hence the $20-million offer to Sundin, who does represent a better chance for Vancouver to compete with the elite in the Western Conference. The sublime Swede is certainly not a long-term fix, but he would add scoring to a team starving for offence.

There's a legitimate argument to be made that Sundin isn't worth the money, but it's difficult to argue that he doesn't make Vancouver a better team.

>> Gillis is also showing he isn't shy about going after the young talent on other teams. His decision to offer Blues' restricted free agent David Backes a three-year, $7.5-million deal proves Gillis doesn't mind making a few enemies in exchange for what he believes will be a better hockey team.

>> Kudos to Kevin Lowe and the Oilers for not being complacent despite having a young and exciting team in Edmonton.

Instead of hoping the team matured as a group next year, he traded for burly forward Erik Cole, offensive blue liner Lubomir Visnovsky and the untapped potential of former Vancouver Giant Gilbert Brule.

>> Jarious Jackson will make his first start of the season against the Roughriders on Friday, but don't expect that to instantly cure what ailed the Lions in Calgary last week. Nothing against Jackson, who simply wasn't very sharp coming off the bench in the opener, but the real problem was the lack of intensity displayed by the guys in the trenches.

Consistent dominance from the offensive and defensive lines was reason the Lions won a franchise-record 14 games during the regular season in 2007. Those groups provided leadership in spades last year, yet both looked anything but assertive against their less-experienced counterparts from Cowtown.

Unless those respective units bring their hard hats this Friday, it won't matter if Doug Flutie shows up to play quarterback against the Riders.

>> Want to weigh in? E-mail me at scott.rintoul@team1040.ca.

major moves

- The Vancouver Canucks brought in forward Darcy Hordichuk.
- The Chicago Blackhawks captured headlines on the first day of free agency, signing top defenceman Brian Campbell to an eight-year contract and tying up the services of talented netminder Cristobal Huet.
- Curtis Joseph returned to Toronto, signing a one-year deal to play as a backup for the Maple Leafs next season. Toronto also added defenceman Jeff Finger and winger Niklas Hagman.
- The Boston Bruins signed forward Michael Ryder.
- The Anaheim Ducks locked up Corey Perry for five years.

YorkReport

Marty York
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MLB players down on derby

MLB Major League Baseball's All-Star Game is in New York, but Yankees star Alex Rodriguez isn't interested in taking part in the annual home run derby. Find out why by reading the York Report at *www.metronews.ca*.

SCOREBOARD

MLB

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Baltimore 7 Kansas City 5
Chicago White Sox 3 Cleveland 2 (10 ings)
Minnesota 6 Detroit 4
Tampa Bay 3 Boston 1
Texas 3 N.Y. Yankees 2
L.A. Angels 5 Oakland 3
Seattle 7 Toronto 6

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Colorado 4 San Diego 0
L.A. Dodgers 7 Houston 6 (11 ings)
N.Y. Mets 7 St. Louis 4
Philadelphia 8 Atlanta 3
Pittsburgh 6 Cincinnati 5 (11 ings)
Washington 9 Florida 6
Milwaukee 8 Arizona 6
San Francisco 2 Chicago Cubs 1

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Detroit at Minnesota, 11:10
Oakland at L.A. Angels, 1:35
Texas at N.Y. Yankees, 5:05
Kansas City at Baltimore, 5:05
Boston at Tampa Bay, 5:10
Cleveland at Chicago W. Sox, 6:11
Toronto at Seattle, 8:10

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Washington at Florida, 10:10
Philadelphia at Atlanta, 5:10
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 5:10
L.A. Dodgers at Houston, 6:05
N.Y. Mets at St. Louis, 6:15
San Diego at Colorado, 7:05
Milwaukee at Arizona, 7:40
Chicago Cubs at San Francisco, 8:15

CFL

WEEK 2
TOMORROW'S GAMES
Hamilton at Toronto, 5
CALGARY at Edmonton, 8
FRIDAY'S GAMES
Winnipeg at Montreal, 5
Saskatchewan at B.C., 8

BASEBALL

NORTHWEST LEAGUE GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER CANADIANS:
LAST NIGHT'S RESULT
Everett 6 **VANCOUVER** 1
TODAY'S GAME
Everett at **VANCOUVER**, 1:05

Whitecaps down TFC for first tourney win

WHITECAPS 1 TFC 0

The Vancouver Whitecaps picked up their first victory of the Nutrilite Canadian Championship in shocking style yesterday, downing the Toronto FC at BMO Field in Toronto.

Martin Nash's penalty kick in the 36th minute stood as the only goal in the Canada Day matchup between the Whitecaps and the Major League Soccer squad.

The win gave the Whitecaps the three points that they required to keep themselves in the three-club competition after losing their opening two tournament encounters to USL First Division rivals Montreal Impact.

Whitecaps goalkeeper Jay Nolly was simply brilliant in goal for the USL visitors, as the Whitecaps unceremoniously ended TFC's unbeaten home streak that goes back to September 22 of last year.

The result was also Vancouver's first goal, and points in the competition, with one more tournament game remaining at home to TFC next week.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Martin Nash celebrates his goal, the only one of the match, as the Vancouver Whitecaps defeated Toronto FC 1-0 at BMO Field yesterday.

ENVIRONMENT Beijing took 300,000 high-emission cars off its roads yesterday, as part of measures to clean up the capital's air pollution and ease traffic ahead of the Olympics. **REUTERS**

Beijing 2008

Lawmakers urge Bush to boycott

POLITICS Two U.S. Congressmen yesterday urged President George W. Bush to rethink attending the Beijing Olympic Games after they were prevented from meeting Chinese human rights activists.

Congressmen Frank Wolf and Chris Smith said they had come to Beijing to meet Chinese citizens pressing for greater political and religious freedoms, including two who recently met the U.S. president.

But Chinese authorities pressured or forced nine activists from meeting them at a dinner on Sunday or subsequently, according to a document handed out by the lawmakers. **REUTERS**

Judo champion to carry Greek flag

HONOURS Olympic judo champion Ilias Iliades will carry the Greek flag at the Beijing Games next month, following a decision by the Hellenic Olympic Committee.

Iliades will be the first athlete to enter the Olympic Stadium on Aug. 8 as Greece is traditionally the first nation to parade.

The judo champion was first in the 81-kg category in the Athens Olympics four years ago but has since moved to the 90-kg category, where he finished second in last year's world championship. **REUTERS**

Tomorrow's lineup

CANADA'S FASTEST MAN. Pick up tomorrow's Metro to read all about Jared Cannaughton, the No. 1-ranked sprinter in the country.

36 days remain until the official start of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

Devastating injuries?

Some of Canada's brightest medal hopes may not make it to Games

TRACEY TONG
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Injury and recovery are a part of every athlete's life. But when you're an athlete gunning for gold at the Olympics, the stakes are high when injury strikes.

STU FORSTER/GETTY IMAGES

Perdita Felicien hurt her foot in February. "There's a lot of speculation about whether she's able to do this," CBC's Scott Russell said.

With the Beijing Summer Games fast approaching, some of Canada's brightest medal hopes — hurdler Perdita Felicien, diver Alexandre Despatie and gymnast Kyle Shewfelt, for example — are recuperating from recent injuries.

It remains to be seen if they can recover in time, the athlete-watchers say.

"They certainly are the types of injuries [that] may affect the performance of those individual athletes," said Scott Russell, host of CBC Olympic Morning and Countdown To Beijing.

Because the Olympics only come around every four years, it's frustrating for athletes when even small injuries occur, said Russell.

"For many athletes, the window is very small," he said. "You're in your prime for a very finite period of time. To have an injury occur before the Olympics can be very devastating."

But injuries can also forge champions, he notes. For example, eight weeks before the 1992 games, rower Silken Laumann was injured when a motorboat collided with her boat. Everyone thought she'd miss the games, but Laumann rebounded to win a bronze medal.

"That was a heroic performance," said Russell. "That kind of thing can, and does, happen."

Competing in the Olympics is pressure enough without worrying about injury, former synchronized swimmer Carolyn Waldo said.

Waldo became the first Canadian female to win two gold medals at one Olympics games in 1988. And while Waldo, now a CTV Ottawa sportscaster, was never injured, the prospect alone was her biggest fear, she said.

"I didn't do anything that would risk injury," she said.

Although she calls the injuries to current athletes "heart-wrenching," Waldo thinks Canada will do well this summer.

Shewfelt — whose 2004 Olympic gold medal for floor was the first medal ever won by a Canadian in an artistic gymnastics event — fractured both tibiae about nine months ago. But he recently won the vault competition and placed second in floor exercise at the Canadian Olympic Team trials.

"It looks like he'll be able to make a contribution," said Russell.

The world champ at the one- and three-metre springboard from 2005 to 2007, Despatie fractured his right foot in April, but Russell said he's "guessing he'll be able to show the fitness."

The injured athlete who remains questionable is Felicien, who hurt her foot while training in February.

"She hasn't said much about it, and there's a lot of speculation about whether Perdita is able to do this," Russell said. "She's the one that's creating a buzz in the Olympic community."

ETIENNE RANGER/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

CTV sportscaster and former Olympic synchronized swimmer Carolyn Waldo, pictured at her home in Kanata, Ont., recently, believes Canada will fare well at the Olympics in Beijing, despite injuries to several of its athletes in recent months.

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Pay gap between sexes in U.K. to be public affair
British companies will now be encouraged to publish the pay gap between their male and female employees under a proposed law. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Ban working?

The World Health Organization urged more countries to adopt smoking bans in public and at the workplace, saying there was enough evidence to prove they are an effective way of preventing heart disease and protecting others from second-hand smoke. METRO

Educating with games

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Vancouver

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Prof. David Hutchison has a hold of Xbox 360 controllers with the game Viva Pinata playing in the background. There are many ways for kids to learn through video games, he says.

Can blasting aliens and racing to the checkered flag help kids learn? You bet, says a university professor who studies how video games aid learning.

David Hutchison, a professor of social studies and computers at Brock University and author of Playing to Learn: Video Games in the Classroom, says many games have great teaching potential in mathematics, problem solving, decision making, geographical awareness and even artistic creativity.

"People might be surprised by the number of connections to different subject areas you can make with video games," Hutchison said.

With recent estimates released by the Entertainment Software Association of Canada showing a staggering 88 per cent of children aged 6-17 play games regularly, Hutchison says teachers should tap into kids' love for games as a way to get them hooked on learning.

"Teachers are always looking for a hook for their lessons and video games are a great example of that," he said.

Some examples of lesson ideas involving games include having math students calculate and analyze the statistics from a racing game like Forza Motorsport 2, making kids dramatize their favourite scene from a particular game or turning the music down and letting students compose their own sounds to go along with the game.

When kids get involved in the process of critiquing and deconstructing the games they play, Hutchison believes they learn valuable critical-thinking skills.

"I'm talking about moving students from just being consumers of video games to becoming critics and creators of video games," Hutchison said.

While pilot training such as that employed by NASA has included games and simulations for years, gaming in general has not been seen as an educational tool in most of North America. Contrary to the stereotype that most games are violent or vapid — a complaint nevertheless bolstered by the booming popularity of violent titles such as the Grand Theft Auto series — more than 70 per cent of the games rated yearly by the Entertainment Software Rating Board are fit for children.

"I see a lot of educational potential in video games."
Brock Prof. David Hutchison

"The vast majority of video games released are appropriate for kids to play," Hutchison said.

Hutchison spent two years writing the book and says the reaction from teachers and parents has been overwhelmingly positive.

With school about to end and the summer season ready to kick in, plenty of parents are probably dreading their kids' inevitable hours spent on the game console.

Hutchison says instead of worrying though, parents should spend some time playing games with their kids to help them understand what they're playing and even try out a few educational activities involving their child's favourite game.

Many tools also exist online and in-game to allow kids to create their own racetracks, game levels or even entire games.

Video games as a career

Possibilities abound

Many post-secondary institutions in the Vancouver area offer ways to launch yourself into a video game career, including Vancouver Institute of Media Arts and The Art Institute of Vancouver.

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UnCOVER a new job

As the job application process moves online, some job seekers might be tempted to think a formal cover letter is no longer necessary — not so, a new survey shows. Eighty-six per cent of executives polled said cover letters are valuable when evaluating job candidates. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Legal always a good bet

JOYCE YIP
for Metro Vancouver

With a 90 per cent employment rate within a month of graduation, Vancouver Community College's Legal Administrative Assistant program is almost a guaranteed ticket to a job.

Kelly Johnston, a VCC legal administrative assistant student currently working at a government law office, is grateful for the program.

"I didn't know about the 90 per cent but I sure felt it," she said. "I'm on my practicum right now, but I've already have two job offers within one month. The school has really great teachers, first-hand practical advice and we went through different areas of law so we really got to see where we fit in."

The five-month Legal Administrative Assistant program provides training on various electronic office applications, typing speed, human relations, basic accounting and writing skills as well as hands-on opportunities through practicum, career fairs and office stimulations.

Graduates will be qualified for legal offices, government positions and almost all secretarial positions, which is currently in critical demand for new blood due to retiring baby boomers and administrators who have advanced to higher positions.

Laura Reid, a recruiter in the Arlyn Reid Recruitment Agency, said she's not surprised at the high employment percentage.

JOYCE YIP/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Legal administrative assistant student, Kelly Johnston, at her workstation in Vancouver Community College.

"The legal market is always busy, and job placements in the last five years have been very high," she said. "VCC graduates get some good, solid, procedural knowledge and training. Working in the legal field requires a certain level of expertise that you don't get with the everyday person. So the training gives a bit of a fundamental basics."

John Demeulemeester, the department head of Office and Legal Administration at VCC, said a little difference will give graduates a big boost.

"The skills are really useful," he said. "Let's say you're doing the format for a memo and you have to indent it. They look if you use the spacebar or do you actually set the tabs the right way with the program. And if you're a spacebar person, then you're in trouble."

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin
dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com

Lawyers can be in need of counsel, too

I love the tales from the workplace trenches. Those that I select to report are chosen based on a combination of their merit, law, skill — and sometimes error.

Hired as an associate lawyer by the law office of Leonard Levencrown, for two years Sharon Johnston and her boss enjoyed a "father/daughter" relationship. Like most small law firms, the pair were close-knit and Johnston, the associate, depended on her boss for work. When financial troubles struck this office, it would have been no surprise that Johnston was dismissed for lack of work.

Shortly after her dismissal, however, their relationship changed for the worst. Incorrectly believing that Johnston filed a complaint against him at the Ministry of Labour, Levencrown struck back, attempting to affect her reputation. Johnston responded by suing for wrongful dismissal.

Throughout the lawsuit and up until trial, Levencrown first argued that he fired Johnston because of her performance and then at trial he then oddly said that she resigned. But the evidence disagreed with him: Levencrown had initially helped Johnston look for another job, he had told another lawyer that he dismissed her because he didn't have enough work for her and he had provided documents indicating that she had been fired for that same reason.

Not amused with Levencrown's hardball tactics, an Ontario judge recently found that his evidence simply wasn't credible and that Johnston's version of the events should be preferred instead. Johnston was awarded two months' salary for wrongful dismissal and her legal costs.

Courts can scrutinize an employer's actions and conduct at the time of dismissal. If unreasonable behaviour is viewed as extending an employee's period of unemployment, the court can award additional damages to compensate for the harm. Although the court curiously declined to award Johnston additional damages, it cautioned like-minded employers that similar behaviour could lead to such a finding.

When it comes to workplace law, sometimes even lawyers need counsel. Employers should consider the following advice for handling dismissals:

>> Raise performance issues or other allegations only if there is evidence to support the argument being made.
>> Zealously follow policies the organization has in place. If none exist, create them.
>> Provide a letter of dismissal, outlining the company's position and any offer of severance being made.
>> Provide helpful letters of reference.
>> Consider offering outplacement counselling.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focussing on the law of dismissal. He can be reached at dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

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Automotive

A METRO JOINT VENTURE WITH: carguide magazine.com

Lancer gets hearts pumping

Jet fighters inspiration for look of Mitsubishi model

MICHAEL BANOVSKY
for Metro Vancouver

You could argue the new crop of small cars is so good that "prison sentence" and "frugal motoring" don't have to feature in the same train of thought.

But after trading in your oversized sedan for something like a Lancer you'll discover a surprise: Small cars are just as big inside as mid-sized cars used to be.

It's a good thing, too — the combination of a number of standard safety features and loads of interior space mated to a fuel-sipping engine is great for commuting.

I know that's not why you're reading this — the Lancer's looks probably reeled you in first. Mitsubishi says the front was inspired by "jet fighter air intakes." That's a little optimistic, but the compact Lancer does look a great deal fiercer than its competitors.

Inside, the Lancer boasts an exceedingly sporty dash. It's simple, with clear controls and pleasant materials. If you add $1,100 for the Sportronic CVT transmission, the shifter gets a nice silver-finished gate. The Sportronic adds six selectable ratios, allowing you to feel more involved in driving — and while in heavy traffic, just leave it in auto.

The standard transmission is a five-speed manual, which links to a powerful 152 horsepower, 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine. Standard on the DE trim are 16-inch steel wheels, power mirrors, power windows, tilt steering, 140-watt AM/FM/CD/MP3 stereo, tire pressure monitoring system, dual front airbags, dual side airbags, and a driver's knee airbag — something found on few cars costing five times the DE's base price of $16,598.

Plump for the top-level $21,698 GTS, and you'll be in a loaded car. It features leather-wrapped steering wheel and shift knob, automatic climate control, Bluetooth phone integration, steering-wheel cruise and audio controls, 18-inch (!!) alloy wheels, sport suspension and subtle body-trim additions.

There is one cool option package available for the GTS: the 'Sun and Sound' package. It bundles a sunroof, advanced ignition key, 6CD/MP3 head unit, and 650-watt Rockford-Fosgate audio system (including a 10-inch subwoofer.)

The previous Lancer was already dated when it arrived in Canada, but the new 2008 version is cutting-edge, and built on the same platform that underpins vehicles as diverse as the Lancer, Dodge Caliber and Jeep Patriot. Between the DE and GTS sits the Lancer ES, for $19,698.

That said, any guise of Lancer should get your heart pumping. A bonus is that even the base model is just as safe and sporty as the top-range GTS.

Lancer's combination of a number of safety features and loads of interior space mated to a fuel-sipping engine is great for commuting.

2008 Mitsubishi Lancer

- Type: Compact 5-pass. sedan FWD
- Price: $16,598 – $21,698
- Engine: 2.0 L4 DOHC
- HP: 152 @ 6,000 rpm
- Torque: 146 @ 4,250 rpm

Highlights:

- Looks edgy without being dated
- Massive number of standard features
- Zippy engine
- 18-inch wheels for GTS model

Inside, the Lancer boasts an exceedingly sporty dash.

▲APR purchase financing offer available only through Bank of Nova Scotia and Bank of Montreal for up to 36 months on all 08 models except Lancer Evolution. Program & credit restrictions apply; not all customers will qualify. Terms may vary & offers may be cancelled at any time.*Whichever comes first. Regular maintenance not included. New Vehicle Limited Warranty covers most vehicle parts under normal use and maintenance. **Best Backed claim based on OEM information for MY07/08 vehicles (Lancer Evolution excluded). See dealers or Mitsubishi-Motors.ca for Warranty and Roadside Assistance terms and conditions and other details. Important program restrictions apply and not all customers will qualify.

A really big catch For a summer fishing weekend to remember, sign up for the Guys Ultimate Fishing Getaway on Cariboo Chilcotin Coast. You'll sail the famed Inside Passage between Port Hardy and Prince Rupert on the Ocean Explorer, a 110-foot luxury vessel decked out with nine private staterooms, menus boasting local fare, a hot tub and plenty of Cuban cigars. See www.adventurewestresorts.com. METRO

Travel

Water, water everywhere

Denmark-born artist Olafur Eliasson's newly unveiled public art installation The New York City Waterfalls' is seen in front of the Statue of Liberty on June 26 in New York City. Four massive waterfalls using water pumped from the river have been installed along the East River through mid-October 2008. GETTY IMAGES

Quebec spas go wet and wild

Taking a road trip to visit the province's nature spas proves highly refreshing

ANNE DIMON
for Metro Vancouver

From Gatineau to Tremblant, Quebec's outdoor spas offer visitors a variety of ways to take the waters with nature as a splendid backdrop.

LE NORDIK

At Quebec spa Le Nordik, visitors can take the waters while taking in the magnificent natural scenery.

Le Nordik

It's Friday noon at Le Nordik Nature Spa and people are already lined up to enjoy a day of social bathing, Nordic-style.

This three-year-old outdoor spa — where the waters run hot, cold and tepid — is apparently a hot spot for Parliament Hill types who, we're told, make the 12-minute drive to take the waters on a fairly regular basis. Sitting pretty on a rocky piece of property at the front door of Gatineau Park, Le Nordik is one of several nature spas I discovered on the route between Gatineau and Tremblant.

The taking of the waters for health and wellbeing is a European practice dating at least as far back as Romans times, and tends to be more of a health and wellness activity than a spa experience. Here, Quebec offers the largest collection of spas where the focus is primarily on the taking the waters. But unlike in Europe, where seeing guests walking from sauna to steam room to shower in their birthday suits is quite common, there will be no flashing of bare bottoms at these spas. There are separate change rooms for men and women, and robes (some spas ask that you bring your own), and towels or bathing suits are a must.

Along with four outdoor pools plus hot tubs, Finnish sauna, steam bath, a Nordic (read ice-cold) waterfall, and various lounge areas spread around a terraced lot, Le Nordik also holds the distinction of being one of the few nature spas with a licensed, all-day, poolside restaurant.

It serves a varied selection of dishes including healthier choices such as fresh fish and vegetable wraps, plus a signature platter of local artisan cheeses paired with wines.

There are also more than a dozen treatment rooms for a variety of massages — no other treatments are offered, which is fairly typical of these Nordic-style spas. An on-site lodge can accommodate a group of up to 12 people.

Ofuro Spa

Several hour's drive north, near the town of Morin-Heights in the Laurentians, Ofuro Spa is a nature spa that is, as the brochure says, "a truly zen experience." Drenched in a Japanese-theme — pagoda-style architecture, Japanese art, furnishings and sculptures are everywhere — Ofuro is certainly one of Canada's most uniquely-decorated and exotic spas.

To the sounds of a mountain stream cascading over boulders, guests breathe in the fresh air and soak up the benefits of nature from one of several pools, from lounge chairs set out on various decks, or while snuggling in a swaying hammock. Unlike many such spas that offer only massages, Ofuro's menu of spa services includes pedicures, facials, body wraps and scrubs. We stayed the night in one of five relatively new guest rooms each nicely decorated and with en-suites and spread around a community lounge where continental breakfast is served.

Le Scandinave

Not far from Ofuro and just a few minutes drive from the Village of Tremblant is Le Scandinave. Considered the grand dame of Quebec's Nordic-style spas, it is not only the oldest, but the largest.Perched on the banks of the Diable River (good for devilishly cold dips), the spa offers rooms for massages, a collection of pools, saunas, steam rooms and hot tubs spread around a multi-terraced lot, plus various relaxation areas both indoors and out. I especially liked the Zero Gravity Room where lounge chairs fold down flat for easy napping in a serene environment.

Taking the waters can be exhausting to the system. There's a small bistro serving sandwiches, soups and juices and while there are no accommodations at Le Scandinave, Chateau Beauvallon, a lovely inn located just a few kilometres away, offers a free year-round shuttle.

On the web

Day passes to all three of these outdoor spas are around $40 per person. For more information, visit:
- Le Nordik, *www.lenordik.com*
- Le Scandinave – *www.scandinave.com*
- Ofuro – *www.spaofuro.com*
- Chateau Beauvallon – *www.chateaubeauvallon.com*

Anne Dimon Anne Dimon is a spa and wellness travel writer and founder/editor of www.traveltowellness.com

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Honeymoon havens The Caribbean, Hawaii and The Bahamas rank as the top three honeymoon destinations, according to AIG Travel Guard and the National Association Of Wedding Ministers. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Here, dining goes down the toilet

Eat out of porcelain bowl at Taipei café

I never thought I'd be caught eating out of a toilet bowl, but there I was, scooping out chunks of brown stuff from a lime green loo. The loose watery goo looked remarkably like you-know-what, but I tried not to think about it. Instead, I chose to wash the slop down with yellow liquid served from a plastic bed pan.

This is a typical lunch at the Modern Toilet restaurant, a kitschy café in the heart of Taipei's Shilin district.

It's fair to say that the restaurant's theme is crap. The décor is bathroom-like: blue tiles, toilet paper dispensers, mirrors along the wall and shower curtains hung from the ceilings. Guests sit on toilets (seats down boys) and eat over sink-style tables.

Actual dishes take the form of toilet bowls, while cups look like mini urinals. There are toilet chachkas around the room and spiral brown clumps of doggie doo-doo on the tables.

It's an unusual gimmick but given the first Modern Toilet restaurant opened four years ago and has expanded into a franchise of some 10 restaurants around the city, it's clearly a hit, drawing a clientele of mostly young people in high school and university.

Sitting atop my porcelain throne I had a look at the menu. According to a small poo symbol (located beside certain items on the menu) Japanese-style hot pots, hot chili chicken and the cheesy noodles are some of the most popular dishes.

Dessert turned out to be an obscene display of sweets on a mound of shaved ice. It was smothered in strawberry sauce, topped with marshmallows, raisins and cubes of unidentifiable green jelly.

Though the food was decent, gourmet cuisine certainly isn't the main reason that most people come.

A visit here begs the question: Why would anyone want to eat out of a mock toilet bowl? There's something truly revolting about combining human waste with food, yet Modern Toilet makes this concept fun, subtly challenging the cultural taboos of poo.

Back at home, dinner discussions about bowel movements aren't exactly encouraged but here, toilet humour is an inescapable topic of conversation.

Sitting at a table nearby were Helen and Rachel, two twentysomethings who just graduated from the University of Toronto. On their celebratory weeklong trip to Taiwan, the toilet restaurant topped their list of local tourist attractions. After visiting Taipei 101, currently the world's tallest building (a record soon to be overturned by Shanghai and Dubai), Modern Toilet was the next hotspot on their list.

Between bites of stool-coloured curried chicken, they admitted that a trip here made great fodder for Facebook photographs. "This toilet restaurant is fun," said one of the girls, taking a sip of strawberry milkshake from her bedpan inspired cup. "It's the shit."

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels airing on OLN, and the editor of The Travel Junkie, www.thetraveljunkie.ca.

on the web

www.moderntoilet.com

TheTravelJunkie
Julia Dimon
www.thetraveljunkie.ca

JULIA DIMON FOR METRO VANCOUVER

At the Modern Toilet, dishes include stool-coloured curried chicken and yellow beverages.

Weird travel: Don't miss the cockroach races

For travellers seeking the outlandish, travel review website IgoUgo.com has come up with a list of its top 10 weird activities ranging from cream fights to cockroach races. This list was compiled by editors at IgoUgo.com on recommendations from its readers and is not endorsed by Reuters.

1 The Great Whipped Cream Battle – Olomouc, Czech Republic
Fluff flies during this highlight of Olomouc's weeklong city festival.

2 The Modern Toilet Restaurant – Taipei, Taiwan
Find good food for less than $10 at this Taipei eatery – provided you don't mind eating out of a (replica) toilet bowl.

3 Eeyore's Birthday – Austin, Tex.
In Austin, adults and children alike use Winnie the Pooh's fictional donkey friend as an excuse to party.

4 Sourtoe Cocktail – Dawson City
Anyone with a strong stomach can gain entry into the Downtown Hotel's Sourtoe Cocktail Club by sipping a drink containing one of the hotel's preserved human toes. Make it a big sip; rules say your lips must touch the toe.

5 Cabbages and Condoms Restaurant – Bangkok, Thailand
The restaurant's name raises eyebrows, but it's all for a good cause. Contraceptives are for sale and everyone gets a condom with their coffee instead of a mint."

6 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races – London, England
Pancake races have characterised Shrove Tuesday in the U.K. for centuries; at this one, all you need is a team and a crazy costume, and you have a shot at stardom.

7 Shot Cafe – Riga, Latvia
Drink a toast to modern Latvia at the lounge where a bathroom break brings joy to travellers. Mood lighting turned the bathroom from a deep blood-red to a vibrant green to a shadowy blue. The toilet seat was clear perspex inset with gilded barbed wire and razor blades."

8 Hakone Kowakien Yunessun Wine Spa – Hakone, Japan
Nurse yourself – and your favourite beverage – in a red wine pool in the shadow of Mt. Fuji.

9 Café Gratitude – San Francisco, Calif.
Order a plate of "we are bountiful" (aka crackers and spreads) at the San Francisco eatery that aims to fill your being as much as your stomach.

10 Cockroach Races – Brisbane, Australia
Each Australia Day, Brisbane's Story Bridge Hotel encourages visitors to "BYO Roach" for its creepy-crawly cockroach races," where every competitor has an imaginative name. REUTERS

Gourmet cuisine isn't why most people come.

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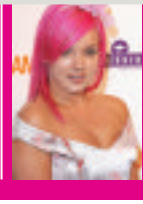
George Carlin remembered

Roughly 150 people, among them Garry Shandling and Bill Maher, turned up at a private memorial for late comedian George Carlin in Los Angeles on Sunday, which was closed off to both the public and the media. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Entertainment



sophomore

Lily Allen has completed recording sessions for her second album, BBC News Online reports. The singer told Newsbeat she is yet to name the follow up to Alright Still.

New wrinkle for oldest toys

RICK McGINNIS
for Metro Vancouver

FEATURE "I love the American Girls," Abigail Breslin tells the roomful of reporters at a Los Angeles press event for her new movie, Kit Kittredge: An American Girl. "I collect them all, and I've collected them since I was, like, 8 or something. Kit was always one my favourites, so it was fun to get to play her. I have all of them except for Ruthie, which I want to get."

"Actually my very first doll was Kit," says 11-year-old Madison Davenport, who plays Ruthie, Kit's best friend, in the film. The words are rushing out of her mouth. "I got her when I was four, and my grandmother got her for me — no seriously, I'm not making this up — and I cut my hair to look like her."

If you don't have a clue what they're talking about, chances are you don't live in regular proximity to a little girl anywhere between the ages of 4 and 12. Two weekends ago, the Kit Kittredge film starring Breslin as the plucky little girl coping with hard times during the Great Depression took in $220,000 US in just five U.S. theatres at a whopping $20 a ticket, as a prologue to its wide release this weekend — a bigger per-theatre average than anything else that's opened this summer.

Chances are, the theatres were full of little girls and their moms — as well as a few shell-shocked-looking fathers — and the dolls, as described by A. O. Scott in last Sunday's New York Times, sitting "stiff and unblinking as their companions squirmed, giggled and whispered" in the seat next to them.

Dolls are perhaps the oldest known toy, and examples have been found in archaeological digs in Egypt, Greece and Rome. Stitched by families from rags and scraps for centuries before the commercial doll-making industry began in Europe and America in the middle of the 19th century, the branded doll appeared for the first time around World War One with Raggedy Ann, as publicized by Johnny Gruelle's series of books. For the first time, it was possible for children all over the world to own the same doll with its own shared back story, and the road was paved for Barbie, Blythe, Chatty Cathy, Sindy, Strawberry Shortcake and the Cabbage Patch kids.

BRYAN BEDDER/GETTY IMAGES

Actress Abigail Breslin says she collects all the American Girl dolls.

This "surrogate child and perfect friend," as Scott describes them was given a new wrinkle when writer and teacher Pleasant T. Rowland decided that something was needed to bridge the gap between baby dolls and Barbie, and founded American Girl in 1986 with a line of mail-order historical dolls whose stories were filled in with a best-selling line of books and accessories. Bought by Mattel, Barbie's corporate home, in 1998, the company has sold by its own reckoning 14 million dolls and 123 million books.

This is an audience base that any movie producer would long to tap, one that makes pilgrimages to the three American Girl Place stores (in Chicago, New York and Los Angeles) — tiny replicas of old-style department stores like Bloomingdales, where they can browse rooms set up to showcase each doll, have their doll's hair styled, take in a stage show or unwind with finger sandwiches in the tea room.

Speaking from experience, a lone father will wander through this well-appointed little world feeling like an alien with a wallet. Those wallets will be opened again and again this weekend when Kit Kittredge: An American Girl opens wide across North America, and again when the DVD is released.

A wide, complicated — and expensive — road has been travelled from the day when that perfect friend could be made from a few scraps and buttons.

Contest closes July 14, 2008. Must be Canadian residents, 13 years & older and a Facebook member. Go to Rogers Show Off Your Summer Facebook page for full rules or to vote for a photo mosaic & enter. Limit of 1 vote per photo mosaic per Facebook account day. One trip for 2 to the Pemberton Festival in BC valued at $7,500 based on a Nfld. departure. Correct answer to mathematical skill-testing question required. No purchase necessary. **TM** Trademarks of Rogers Communications Inc., used under license or of Rogers Wireless. All other brand names are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2008 Rogers Wireless.

Hancock generic hero

Hancock
Director: Peter Berg
Stars: Will Smith, Jason Bateman, Charlize Theron
Rating: PG13
Grade:

BRIAN TOWIE
for Metro Vancouver

REVIEW Take two cups of Wolverine, add one teaspoon of Iron Man and a pinch of Hulk. Microwave on high for two to three minutes. Let stand before serving.

Director Peter Berg's (Friday Night Lights) superhero drama might stand out if it wasn't released in this, the summer of the anti-hero. Comic book aficionados will instantly spot the patchwork of some of the genre's classically corruptible characters that make up Will Smith's flawed protagonist: Hancock drinks like Tony Stark, causes mayhem like Bruce Banner's better half (and I don't mean Betty Ross), and like everyone's favourite Canadian X-Man, is a nearly indestructible, ill-tempered boor who can't remember his past. And, like all three, he has his heart in the right place when it comes to saving the world — he just has to overcome his inner demons.

That said, Hancock redeems itself as a passable standalone action movie. There's wanton destruction and the thugs who provoke Smith reap their whirlwinds — there's a memorable prison scene where he introduces a cell mate's head to another's rectum, incidentally. The trio of Smith, Bateman (playing a PR rep out to shine up Hancock's public image) and Theron (Bateman's wife with a secret of her own) generates some pathos and keeps a viewer interested.

But part of the reason why successful comic book movies do so well at the box office is the longtime reader's thirst to see how their hero transcends the page onto the screen. In the character of Hancock, there's no history, no previous emotional investment, no longtime archvillain to match his off-the-charts power. Hancock is a generic flying musclehead at best, and one that should pass out of our imaginations faster than a speeding bullet.

Will Smith takes the starring role as Hancock.

Wanted tops worldwide ticket sales

BOX OFFICE Angelina Jolie is the most Wanted woman at the foreign box office. Her action thriller, which opened at No. 2 in North America with surprisingly strong weekend sales of $51 million, was the top choice internationally with $32.5 million from 22 territories.

It opened at No. 1 in 18 markets, highlighted by a record-breaking bow in Russia ($11 million), where Wanted director Timur Bekmambetov enjoyed such hits as Night Watch and Day Watch. Other No. 1 openings included Thailand, Ukraine, Turkey and Poland.

Wanted will now be confronted by Will Smith superhero Hancock (see review, left), which is set to open in 49 territories, including the U.K. and Germany.

REUTERS

New reality show?
First, pop star Madonna's brother Christopher Ciccone writes a memoir about being her brother. Now, the New York Post reports he's shopping around a reality show about the same exact thing. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

ABOVE: It's an elegant afternoon harbour cruise for Harry McWatters, founder of Sumac Ridge Estate Winery, to celebrate an illustrious career.

ABOVE: Players Chophouse manager Joel Tolentino doesn't mind being caught in the middle between Erin Slade and Carly Depatie as the Kickoff party begins.

ABOVE: Painted head to toe in B.C. Lions orange are Nashelle Braithwaite, left, and Niki Nostalgia at Players Chophouse Kick-off party.

ABOVE: Executive sous chef Jennifer Dodd and executive chef William Tse serve delicious seared halibut and scallops at Goldfish One Year.

ABOVE RIGHT: The Buzz 1410 radio host Joe Leary, left, CFOX afternoon man Neil Morrison and Rogers Communications' VP Paul Fisher at Goldfish One Year.

ABOVE 5: He's the big fish at Goldfish — congrats to Albert Chee and his crew on their one-year anniversary.

We'll miss you Harry

CRUISE CELEBRATION I'm just wild about Harry — and his Suman Ridge wines. But now, the founder of one of Canada's first estate wineries is stepping down to pursue other interests. Harry McWatters, who helped found the British Columbia Wine Institute, Wines of Canada, VQA Canada, the B.C. Wine Information Society, was honoured by friends and special guests aboard the Magic Charm during a special Bon Voyage Sumac Ridge cruise celebration.

But Harry fans needn't worry — he'll still be around as he plans on working as a consultant and toward establishing the Okanagan Wine Academy.

Social Eyes

Catherine 'Cat' Barr
info@catherinebarr.com

Also this week, the B.C. Lions roared into action cheered on by the gang at Rob Ward's Players Chophouse on Beatty. A special celebration party and fashion show helped kick-off the season in style.

And lastly, congrats to everyone at Yaletown's Goldfish restaurant on their first anniversary. Their fabulous food has made a big splash on the scene and by the looks of things, everything is progressing swimmingly.

Cat Calls? Please visit www.catherinebarr.com to submit your event or e-mail *info@catherinebarr.com*. She can also be heard on CFUN 1410 AM radio Fridays at 4 p.m.

ABOVE: Joe Fortes' famous oyster schucker, Oyster Bob, celebrates on board with guests like Megan Moyle at the Sumac Ridge cruise.

ABOVE: Fabulous tuna tacos and more are served aboard the Sumac Ridge cruise courtesy of the boys from Joeys — from left: chef Chris Kaiser, manager Kent Strom and chef Taylor Coulthard.

ABOVE: The Global TV gang, namely Kristi Gordon, left, Jay Janower and Sophie Lui join the Sumac Ridge cruise.

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X-Files star Gillian Anderson, left, will produce and star in a biopic of Martha Gellhorn, the pioneering female war correspondent who covered the Spanish Civil War and married Ernest Hemingway. **EW.COM**

September debut for Rock Band 2

GAMING The makers of video game Rock Band 2 said Monday the sequel to last year's best-selling predecessor Rock Band will be released for the Xbox in September, months ahead of key rival Guitar Hero. Rock Band 2 makers Harmonix Music Systems Inc, Electronic Arts Inc and MTV games, a unit of Viacom Inc, said the new version would include more instruments, a new soundtrack and an online community. Music downloads for the first Rock Band will be compatible with Rock Band 2.

Hot director lines up two new flicks

MOVIES Jonathan Levine, whose upcoming film The Wackness features an infamous kiss between Ben Kingsley and Mary-Kate Olsen, has set up two new projects. He will write and direct Positive, a romantic thriller set on Martha's Vineyard. He's also penning the screenplay for Echelon Vendetta.

Reuters

Shakira hip to new deal: Sources

Latin music pop star Shakira is in talks with concert promoter Live Nation Inc. for a contract that will include touring, merchandising and recording, according to people familiar with the talks.

The Colombian-born songstress, whose 2006 hit Hips Don't Lie was No. 1 around the world, is expected to complete a multimillion-dollar deal with Live Nation before the end of the year, after months of talks.

The New York Post reported yesterday that the so-called 360-degree deal could be worth up to $70 million US, though one person close to the artist said she should be worth much more based on her recent touring success.

Live Nation's strategy is to expand its business beyond handling artists' touring to also offer recording, merchandising, ticket sales and other services that have traditionally been handled by disparate companies.

ENRIQUE MARCARIAN/REUTERS

Shakira performs during a recent concert in Buenos Aires.

Live Nation already has a touring relationship with Shakira, having handled the U.S. leg of her Oral Fixation tour last year.

People familiar with the global tour said it had grossed over $100 million US.

Shakira's recording rights currently belong with Sony BMG Music Entertainment's Epic Label.

The 31-year-old, who has sold more than 50 million albums around the world, still has two more studio albums to deliver — one in English and the other in Spanish — under the Epic contract, as well as a greatest hits album.

Sony BMG is a venture between Sony Corp and Bertelsmann.

Shakira grossed more than $100 million US in live show ticket sales between 1999 and May 30, 2007, according to Pollstar figures.

Though she has had several global hits and sold out shows all over the world, she is particularly strong in the Latin American/Spanish language market.

Last year, Live Nation signed Madonna to a similar 360-degree deal for $120 million over 10 years. It has also signed deals with rapper Jay-Z and Irish band U2.

The company believes it can improve its profit margins and leverage the artist relationships with other business partners through such comprehensive contracts with big-name artists.

The evolution of the business model has not been without some difficulties. Last month Live Nation chairman Michael Cohl stepped down in a disagreement with chief executive Michael Rapino over the pace at which the company should sign up artists to 360-degree deals.

Cohl, who is now a consultant to Live Nation, had wanted the company to sign up artists at a more rapid pace.

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KVOS TELEVISION

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Actor Tim Roth, right, set to appear in Lie To Me, a Fox television series about a human lie detector. The drama is expected to debut early next year. Fox has made a 13-episode commitment. **EW.COM**

Model's death ruled suicide

NEWS Kazakh supermodel Ruslana Korshunova's fatal fall from her balcony was a suicide, officials ruled on Sunday, though friends told local media she was in good spirits and suicide seemed incomprehensible.

Korshunova, 20, was discovered dead in front of her apartment building in downtown Manhattan, near the financial district and South Street Seaport tourist area on Saturday afternoon. Several eyewitnesses saw her plunge from a ninth-floor balcony. Authorities ruled the model's death a suicide on Sunday, saying Korshunova died from blunt impact injuries, a spokeswoman for the city's medical examiner told The New York Daily News.

Korshunova, a native of Kazakhstan, had been profiled in British Vogue in recent years as a new face to watch, and she was featured in ads by Vera Wang, Marc Jacobs, Christian Dior and DKNY. A spokesman for Korshunova's agency, IMG, which also handles Heidi Klum and Kate Moss, said "We're shocked and our heart goes out to her family."

Reuters

Incubus to focus on school, kids

MUSIC Having just completed a year-and-a-half-long tour to promote their 2006 album Light Grenades, the members of California rock band Incubus will take a break while they pursue a variety of academic and personal endeavors.

On Aug. 23, guitarist Mike Einziger will unveil an orchestral piece in concert at UCLA's Royce Hall in Los Angeles. The concert will serve as a precursor to his enrollment in Harvard's music school to study composition next year. But he's not the only one returning to higher education, as frontman Brandon Boyd also plans to enroll in a university art program.

"And, our drummer (Jose Pasillas) is having a baby, so there's a lot of normal life stuff going on right now — school, babies, mortgages," Boyd told Billboard.com.

Reuters

Cronenberg abuzz over The Fly

Canadian director David Cronenberg has caught the opera bug. Literally.

Rehearsals are under way for the operatic adaptation of Cronenberg's 1987 horror flick The Fly for Paris' Chatelet Theater and the Los Angeles Opera. Run-throughs are being held at the theater, which will set the stage for the five performances running Wednesday through July 13.

The melodious version of the film about a scientist transformed into a giant man/fly hybrid will be conducted by tenor Placido Domingo with music composed by Howard Shore, who also wrote the score for the original movie.

The script is by David Henry Hwang, based on the eponymous novel by Frenchman George Langelaan.

"We're really branching out internationally. It's a story from France that went to Hollywood and is now coming back home," Chatelet Theater director Jean-Luc Choplin said.

Cronenberg

"I think the production will please both true opera fans and also reach out to younger audiences," Choplin said.

"We're really crossing borders between the cinema and the opera. It's more than just a simple costume change."

A melange of voices from across the globe will be complemented by the Radio France Philharmonic orchestra. "The Fly" will feature contemporary music made specifically for the opera.

"It's a new artistic adventure. We need to modernize. We have to push the opera toward new frontiers," Choplin said, adding that he sees more of these projects combining film with music, opera and theater on the horizon.

On Thursday, the sixth edition of the annual 12-day discount moviegoing Paris Cinema Festival will pay homage to Cronenberg.

The director will present his big-screen version of The Fly, followed by a screening of Kurt Neumann's 1958 original film of the same title. Restored versions of both films will be released in French theaters Friday through Splendor Films.

The opera will head across the Atlantic in September for a series of performances in Los Angeles.

Reuters

Jolie admitted to mat ward, twins expected

Actress Angelina Jolie has checked into a hospital in the south of France where it is expected she will give birth to twins, according to a report by BBC Online.

"She's very well. Everything is fine," Nadine Bauer, spokeswoman for the Lenval Hospital in Nice told the Associated Press news agency.

Bauer said Jolie, who is pregnant by actor Brad Pitt, would almost certainly stay in hospital until she gives birth.

Bauer added that Jolie, 32, was not expected to give birth immediately.

She said the star's admittance to the maternity wing had been planned for some time and there was "no urgency," but refused to disclose when Jolie had checked in. PR guru Max Clifford wonders how much pictures of Angelina Jolie's twins will be worth. Jolie and Pitt already have one daughter together, called Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt, who was born in Namibia in 2006. Jolie confirmed she was expecting twins at the Cannes Film Festival in May after her Kung Fu Panda co-star Jack Black accidentally referred to them in an interview. She has since said the babies are due in August.

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DVD picks

In Bruges

Genre: Comedy/Drama
Director: Martin McDonagh
Stars: Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Ralph Fiennes
Rating: 18A
Grade: ●●○○○

A rude and riotous laugher set in a tongue-twisting Belgian burg where people take medieval studies, tourism and troublemakers very seriously. It's the feature debut of British playwright Martin McDonagh, whose stage creations have included such midnight characters as a skeleton-smashing gravedigger and siblings who shoot their pa.

Ken (Brendan Gleeson) and Ray (Colin Farrell) are Irish hit men on the lam from a botched job in London that left a young boy accidentally dead. They've been sent to Bruges by their gangster boss Harry (Ralph Fiennes), a furious man who may once have smiled. And if he did smile, it was on a holiday to Bruges, where the castles, churches and fairies charmed him.

Be warned: In Bruges is loaded with profanity and dialogue that polite company would deem sexist, racist and cruel, especially towards short, fat, obnoxious, whiny or Canadian people. Most of the oaths are uttered in such a thick Irish brogue, however, that you might miss the worst of them.

Heathers

Genre: Comedy/Crime
Director: Michael Lehmann
Stars: Winona Ryder, Christian Slater
Rating: 14A
Grade: ●●○○○

A generation on, Heathers seems even more shocking now than at the time of its 1988 issue. It's impossible to think in this post-Columbine era that a movie about student psychopaths killing each other and themselves while laying waste to their school would pass muster in the court of popular opinion.

Winona Ryder and Christian Slater cemented their edgy images playing disturbed lovers who seek to get even with the jocks and bitches who ruled Westerberg High.

Back then, it was intended as the blackest of satires, even if student suicides were (and continue to be) a serious social problem.

Proudly geekish screenwriter Daniel Waters was the Diablo Cody of his day, author of such zeitgeist-ready phrases as "What's your damage?" – which he now admits he stole from a friend in Canada.

Much imitated, with everything from Mean Girls to Jennifer's Body (Cody's post-Juno movie, currently in production) dropping references to it and copping its bleak hipster vibe, Heathers is a better influence than it is a movie. Director Michael Lehmann lensed it on the leanest of budgets, so strapped for cash he brags on the commentary track about being allowed to do a single crane shot.

That commentary, which includes Waters and producer Denise Di Novi, was released a decade ago, which is why it doesn't refer to the 1999 Columbine High student slayings that spookily tracked Heathers, right down to copying Slater's black trench coat. The trio refers briefly to Columbine in a featurette that is the only new thing in this two-disc set.

They dodge comparisons, arguing that Heathers came out in a more innocent time, when it could be taken as fantasy and not as horrifically accurate social commentary.

L'Âge des ténèbres (Days of Darkness)

Genre: Comedy
Director: Denys Arcand
Stars: Marc Labrèche
Rating: 14A
Grade: ●●○○○

The final chapter in Denys Arcand's trilogy of modern sex and values that began in 1986 with The Decline of the American Empire and continued with The Barbarian Invasions in 2003, Days of Darkness is perhaps the bleakest vision of the three films.

Yet writer/director Arcand manages to keep things upbeat, even while summoning empathy for his view that the world is disintegrating into a mess of disease, destruction and senseless bureaucracy.

Quebec actor Marc Labrèche plays the Walter Mitty-ish Jean-Marc, a man so dull, even the sex-crazed babes in his fantasies complain he's a loser. In one fantasy sequence, he imagines himself as the famous author of an autobiography titled A Man of No Interest.

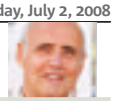
Jean-Marc is the proverbial little guy who dreams big and everyone can identify with that, even if his dreams begin to become all too real for him — such as when he's really called upon to prove that shining-knight stuff.

Days of Darkness is arguably Arcand's most depressing film.

Yet it's also one of his greatest and, in a strange way, his most uplifting.

Torstar News Service

Former Arrested Development co-star Jeffrey Tambor, right, has confirmed published reports that a movie version of the Emmy-winning Fox comedy is in the works. EW.COM



The pros/cons of the thong

Today, I am no longer "woman who sits at desk wondering if she bought the right toilet bowl cleaner." Today, I am "wild ravishing temptress woman." I am a saucy, seductive love puppy. I am goddess. I am Eve. I am the proud owner of my very first thong.

I've always wanted a thong. To some women, this is akin to saying, "I've always wanted to have my eyebrows removed with gardening sheers." But I have excellent reasons for wanting a thong.

First, panty lines. They are very bad. Although, in an age when celebrities are caught on camera seriously underdressed, it might be wise to let people know you are wearing underwear.

Secondly, if our fashion choices say something about us, my current underwear is screaming, "hasn't been in a lingerie store since 1998."

Finally, am assured that thong will make my bottom look fabulous without having to resort to unreasonable measures such as avoiding iced lattes or joining a gym. The thong saleswoman insists that my rear end will look just like Halle Berry's. I buy six.

TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

Columnist Anne Hines discusses the good, the bad and the ugly when it comes to the controversial thong.

7 a.m./DOT (Day of the Thong): Insert thong. Check out rear end in mirror. Strangely, rear end does not look like Halle Berry's. Must be bad lighting.

9:30 a.m.: At work. Wondering why no one has commented on sexy new me. One person does say, "Are you wincing?"

11 a.m.: Starting to wonder if saleswoman directed me to right size. Hard to feel sexy while wondering if thong will have to be surgically removed from backside by lunchtime.

1 p.m. Convinced that saleswoman was absent or drunk during training session on how to size a thong. Maybe both. Coworker shares that she calls thongs "fanny gnats"; they're annoying and they're everywhere.

3:30 p.m.: Thong has migrated from previous uncomfortable position into worse position. Call thong-wearing friend for advice.

HineSight

Thong-wearing friend: It takes a while to find what's right for your body type.

Me: How long did it take you?

TWF: So far, about six years.

5 p.m.: Head home attempting not to walk as if there is a thong stuck up my backside. Which there really is.

7 p.m.: Prepare to discard thong. I am not wild, seductress woman. I am "woman destined to live in Joe boxers."

Partner walks in and says, "Wow, that makes your rear end look like Halle Berry's." Don't care if it's a fib. I'm keeping the thong.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

Waxwork model of Winehouse

MUSIC A waxwork model of British soul singer Amy Winehouse will be unveiled at London's Madame Tussauds in late July, the museum said on Monday.

The 24-year-old, who will appear with her trademark beehive hair and sailor tattoos, joins the likes of Jimi Hendrix, The Beatles, Beyonce and Justin Timberlake in a new music zone at the popular tourist destination.

"She is a real icon in modern British music, a continual award winner, and an internationally recognized star widely requested by our guests," said Madame Tussauds general manager Edward Fuller.

"Feedback for her inclusion just keeps growing and growing, and we are keen to reflect that popular public opinion."

Winehouse is a tabloid favourite for her erratic behaviour and public battle with drug addiction.

REUTERS

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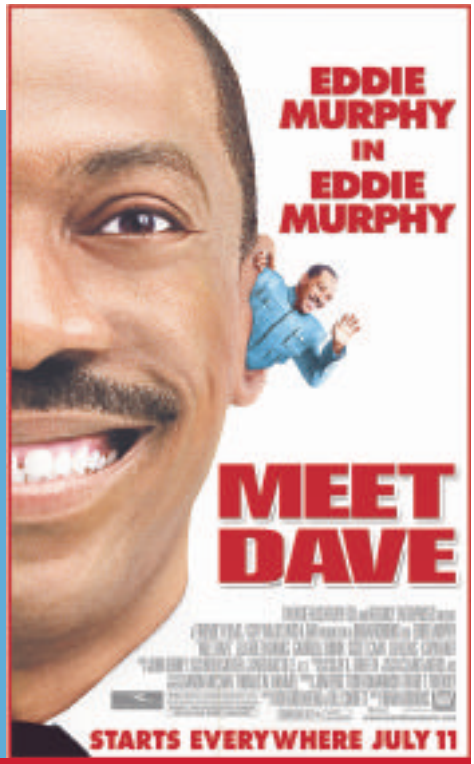

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metro Do it daily.

Actress Lindsay Lohan's father Michael, right, has said he provided a DNA sample for a paternity test yesterday and is convinced the results will shoot down a woman's claim that he fathered a daughter with her while he was separated from ex-wife Dina Lohan. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Lost Beatles TV interview discovered

LONDON, ENGLAND. A film enthusiast has discovered a long lost interview with the Beatles from 1964 which has not been broadcast since.

Richard Jeffs came across 64 canisters of film stored in a damp garage in South London, and when he started to go through them he stumbled across a of piece of pop history.

The conversation with Scottish television dates from April 30, 1964, according to the BBC, which played excerpts from the nine-and-a-half minute interview on the radio yesterday.

It came shortly after the Fab Four's trip to the United States during which they were besieged by fans and watched by a television audience estimated to be about half the country's population when they played The Ed Sullivan Show.

During the interview, Paul McCartney and John Lennon discussed how they came up with their tunes, and Jeffs said it shed light on the songwriting process within arguably the biggest band ever.

REUTERS

New lover moves in on Housewives

TELEVISION. A new male love interest is moving to Wisteria Lane next season. Neal McDonough has joined the cast of Desperate Housewives in a recurring role as a white-collar resident who is expected to get romantically involved with one of the housewives. He is the second addition to the cast of the ABC show next season

REUTERS

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Going Out

4 p.m. Artists Cyndi Lauper, The B-52s, Joan Armatrading, Rosie O'Donnell, Sarah McLachlan and Carson Kressley perform live. At Deer Lake Park, 6450 Deer Lake Ave. Tix: 57.50 plus service charges and fees. Info: truecolorstour.com.

8 p.m. The Tempest. At Bard On The Beach, 301-601 Cambie St. Tix: $33. Info: bardonthebeach.org.

8 p.m. Singer-songwriter Jonathan Richman plays live. At Richard's on Richards, 1036 Richards St. Tix: $20. Info: richardsonrichards.com.

9:15 p.m. Improv Cabaret. At The Vancouver Theatre Sports League, 104-1177 W. Broadway. Tix: $8.50. Info: vtsl.com.

10 p.m. DJs Skyline, Carlos, Cachete and Marcos spin house, electronic, Top 40, Latin and Brazilian. At Atlantis Nightclub, 1320 Richards St. Tix: no cover. Info: atlantisclub.net.

Mad Men has depth, truth

MAD FOR IT: I spent the better part of last weekend in a Beverly Hills hotel room watching the season one box set of Mad Men, and I don't actually regret a moment. AMC's critical hit returns later this month for a second season, and the first season can either be relived every Sunday on CTV or consumed in one mighty swig in the box set that hit the shelves this week.

Aside from the brilliant packaging — a big Zippo lighter — there's a rare wholeness to the debut season of Matthew Weiner's series about the messy lives of the men and women working and living in the orbit of a Madison Avenue ad agency at the dawn of the '60s. It's shows like Mad Men that make people talk about television today being the new novel, the "narrative of our times that gives our lives meaning and shape," as the BBC's head of fiction claimed over the weekend.

I imagine that those people lucky enough to get stuck in at the start of the first season of The Sopranos probably felt much the same way as I did as I watched the AMC show unfold from an intriguing retro premise into a drama more substantial than the sum of its often very attractive parts.

There are, of course, a few flaws and logical speed bumps that you need to squint hard to ignore — Peggy's pregnancy, concealed (even from herself!) behind an anxious weight gain, and Don's sudden eruption of jealousy after his drunk boss makes a pass at his wife — an inkling of emotional need that seems to come out of nowhere. Considering what Weiner and his cast get right, you can let them recede in the rear-view mirror.

Much is made of the historical verisimilitude of the show, but it's the details that have nothing to do with costumes or props that resonate, especially for anyone with a passing memory of a time before smoke-free airplane flights, car seats and cholesterol. There's the scene where Don (Jon Hamm) and wife Betty (January Jones) come home well-lubricated from a celebratory evening out, giddy and lit up, then wake up the next morning visibly crippled by the toxic half-life of so much booze and cigarettes. You can almost feel the dry eyes, full-body headache and sewer mouth. It's not that nobody does it today, but that no one did it then and imagined that it might have adverse consequences on their health.

It might be a man's, man's, man's world on Madison Avenue, but the writing for the women's parts on the show increased immensely over the course of the season, not only for Elizabeth Moss' pivotal Peggy, but for Jones' Betty and especially Christina Hendricks' Joan, the statuesque queen of the steno pool.

From our comfortable perch on the ridge just past the end of the century, we know that Don, Betty, Peggy, Pete, Sal and the rest of the gang at Sterling Cooper are headed into a social and cultural gauntlet, and that despite the anxiety and flashes of trouble that rumble and knife through the first season, the ride is only going to get bumpier.

Intellevision

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

primetime 7/2/08

Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
251	308	3	CBC	Coronation St.	22 Minutes	Little Mosque	Sophie	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
255	358	6	CH	E! News	The Insider	Zoe Busiek: Wild Card		Celebrity Circus (N) (CC)		Janice Dickinson Modeling		News (N)
254	-	8	M	Law & Order: SVU		Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		The Simpsons
250	321	9	CTV	eTalk (CC)	Canadian Idol	So You Think You Can Dance The top 14. (N) (CC)				CSI: NY "All in the Family"		News (N)
-	-	10	OMNI	According-Jim	George Lopez	Coach (CC)	Growing Pains	Jeeves and Wooster (CC)		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
252	336	11	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	The Office	Name Is Earl	NCIS "Blowback" (CC)		ReGenesis (CC)		News (N)
256	389	12	VI	Degrassi	Friends (CC)	Wife Swap (CC)		Supernanny "An-Duan Family"		Law & Order (CC)		News (N)
253	359	13	CITY	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Make Me a Supermodel		Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		Entourage	Entourage	Reviews
-	-	14	CW	'70s Show	'70s Show	America's Next Top Model		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Price Is Right Spectacular		Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: NY "All in the Family"		News (N)
287	379	16	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	The Baby Borrowers (CC)		The Baby Borrowers (N)		Celebrity Circus (N) (CC)		News (N)
602	568	19	W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Shopping	Style by Jury	Smart Cookies	Stuck	Maxed Out	Style by Jury	Stuck
288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wife Swap (CC)		Supernanny "An-Duan Family"		Primetime: Crime (CC)		News (N)
-	-	23	KVOS	M*A*S*H	Scrubs (CC)	Mission of the Shark ★★ (1991) Stacy Keach.				Cheers (CC)	Scrubs (CC)	Seinfeld
291	383	27	PBS	Steves Europe	Field Guide	Great Lodges-Parks		Nova scienceNOW (N)		Carrier "Controlled Chaos"		Cousteau-Adv.
290	382	28	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance The top 14. (N) (CC)				News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
-	364	48	PBS	Pa Diners		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Great Lodges-Parks	
296	654	34	SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Cheers (CC)	South Park	Comics Un.	Half & Half	Entertainment	The Insider	Paid Program
298	653	35	TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
295	651	36	WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
297	652	37	WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	Frasier (CC)	George Lopez	Odd Couple
199	311	76	STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) Seinfeld	Big Love (CC)		Late Late
502	390	23	NW	Python Invasion		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Python Invasion		National
500	500	33	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
407	419	22	RSP	MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Seattle Mariners. From Safeco Field in Seattle. (Live)						Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
400	400	30	TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Off the Record	Boxing Wednesday Night Fights. (Taped) (CC)				SportsCentre
411	457	49	OLN	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Ed's Up (CC)	Angry Planet	The Rig (CC)
410	403	54	SCR	Score Update		Schwab	World Series of Poker		Score Update	Score Update		Score Update
417	406	55	SC	Pass Time	Pass Time	Pinks	Pass Time	Unique Whips		Pinks	Pinks	Pass Time
416	409	144	GLF	Fútbol Colombiano		Gol TV News		American Soccer		Pagado	Kings Club	Gol TV News
552	543	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
555	545	50	TEL	George	Merrie Melody	Loonatics	6teen (CC)	Total Drama	Futurama	Spaceballs ★★ (1987) Mel Brooks. (CC)		
557	541	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
553	546	56	TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Crazy Quilt	The Bittles	Comfy Couch
268	354	5	KNO	Lemur Street	Undersea	Ancient Clues		Columbus' Lost Ships (N)		For King and Empire (CC)		Satie-Suzanne
575	583	20	CMT	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Totally "2001"		Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Ed "Pilot"
570	580	24	MM	America's Best Dance Crew			Totally Untrue	Punk'd (CC)	America's Best Dance Crew			Spotlight
600	564	29	H&G	Flipping Out (CC)		Holmes	Holmes	Property Shop	City	Property	Unsellable	Flipping Out
615	520	61	A&E	CSI: Miami "Double Jeopardy"		CSI: Miami "Driven" (CC)		The First 48 (CC)		Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		CSI: Miami
628	584	62	SPKE	(6:00) Star Wars IV: A New Hope ★★★★ (1977)				CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Star Trek: Voyager "The Gift"		Deep Space 9
521	560	64	TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate
616	522	63	SHO	ReGenesis "Prions" (CC)		Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)		Trailer Park	Rent-A-Goalie	Big Love "Home Invasion" (N)		House (CC)
620	523	40	BVO	Entourage	Bravonews	Law & Order "Corpus Delicti"		Without a Trace (CC)		Trixie ★★ (2000) Emily Watson, Nick Nolte.		
601	562	41	SLC	Trading Spouses		X-Weighted "Maggie & Liz"		Work Out (CC)		Trading Spouses		Trading Sp
520	505	42	DIS	Mayday "Ripped Apart" (CC)		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters Whirlpools.		Dirty Jobs Vermont cheese.		Mayday (CC)
522	506	44	HIS	NCIS "Chained" (CC)		Underworld Histories (CC)		The Score ★★★ (2001, Crime Drama) Robert De Niro, Edward Norton. (CC)				
627	528	45	SPC	Supernatural (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Memento"		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Star Trek: Enterprise (CC)		Star Trek Gen.
294	650	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Underworld ★★ (2003) (PA) Kate Beckinsale.		
619	525	48	TROP	TV Made	TV Made	ET Canada	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)	Family Guy
603	561	52	FN	The Next Food Network Star		Challenge (N) (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		The Next Food Network Star		Challenge
626	547	57	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	Comedy Inc.	Daily Show
320	621	60	CEN	(6:30) Mistaken (2008) (CC)		Dead at 17 (2008) Barbara Niven. Premiere.			I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry ★ (2007) (CC)			
581	566	101	MTV	The Real World (CC)		MTV Live (CC)		The Real World (CC)		The Real World (CC)		MTV Live
261	394	102	V	God's Red Poet		Side Effects		Jeeves and Wooster		Sorry!	No Place Like	Paid Program
-	-	105	MUL	The Land	Daughters	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal		Patrol World

critics'corner

The Property Shop
She gave up a six-figure salary? What?? Apparently money can't buy happiness. This new series follows Tatiana as she quits her lucrative job to open her own real estate business in Montreal. In doing so, she has to deal with the competition, sometimes ruthless junior agents, and her personal life as a mother and wife. 5 PM on H&G

Supernatural
Turf war! When several people who were nowhere near water turn up dead from drowning, Sam and Dean (Jared Padalecki, Jensen Ackles) investigate and discover that they all had the same vision before they died: a ghost ship. And it turns out the family of one victim has hired Bela (Lauren Cohan) to solve the mystery. The brothers tell her to stay off the case, but she refuses in "Red Sky at Morning." 7 PM on SPC

Actress Helena Bonham Carter is in talks to play a small but pivotal role in Terminator Salvation, the fourth film in the sci-fi/action franchise, Warner Bros. has confirmed. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Celebrity Buzz

Being a mom makes Gyllenhaal better actress

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

CAREER Maggie Gyllenhaal says motherhood made her a better actress, but now she wants to spend more time at home than in front of the cameras, People.com reports.

"I think having a child changes everything and has deepened everything in my life," Gyllenhaal, mom to 20-month-old daughter Ramona, told reporters recently.

"I think it has deepened my acting."

Of motherhood, "It really does crack you open in every way," said the actress. "I never knew that I could be so tired. I never knew that I could work so hard. I never knew that I could love so much or be so patient or be so excited by the tiniest, tiniest little thing. Everything about it has surprised me." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

celebrity brief

Crawford keeps his shirt on

TV Gossip Girl star Chace Crawford hates appearing topless on-screen — because he doesn't want his good looks to divert attention from his acting skills, imdb.com reports.

The TV hunk, who plays rich kid Nate Archibald in the hit series, hates to undress for the cameras because he doesn't believe his character would strip off for no reason.

And Crawford admits to speaking his mind when TV bosses try and persuade him to get naked. He told Ok! magazine, "There was an episode where we were crashed out on the sofa after a big night out and they wanted me to wake up in my boxers, so I argued with them about it.

"I mean, first of all, who gets wasted with their buddy, and smokes weed and then strips down to their boxers before they pass out on the couch?!

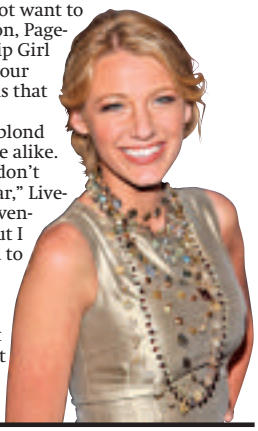
No one does that.

"Why am I naked on my buddy's couch? It was weird so I fought it." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Lively is not like Hilton

PEOPLE Blake Lively does not want to be compared to Paris Hilton, Page-Six.com reports. The Gossip Girl star said the weirdest rumour she's heard about herself is that she acts like the heiress.

"Since I have a dog and blond hair, that must mean we're alike. It's a dumb thing to say. I don't think that makes us similar," Lively told the new issue of Seventeen. "I don't know her, but I don't like being compared to anyone by somebody who doesn't know me. I'm my own person. I don't go to clubs, I don't party, I don't dance on tables and I don't like sex tapes." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Brosnan happy to pass 007 franchise

FILM Former James Bond star Pierce Brosnan was relieved to finally hand over the 007 franchise to Daniel Craig — because playing the superspy is like making "a pact with the devil," imdb.com reports.

The 54-year-old starred as the secret agent in four films, eventually bowing out in 2004.

But Brosnan admits that playing the revered character is a major undertaking, as the franchise has such strict rules about conduct, grooming and endorsements.

And he was happy to finally shed the responsibility of playing Bond.

He said, "You become an ambassador to a small country. Bond is an industry.

"You make your pact with the devil. You know that it will follow you. But you just hope you get yourself off the ropes. I have no bitterness but I just feel exhausted by it." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

celebrity brief

Hilton says she is paid to party

PEOPLE Paris Hilton is adamant her image as a fun-loving party girl is not real — insisting she is paid to attend most social events, imdb.com reports.

The hotel heiress is regularly pictured out and about at nightclubs, both in the U.S. and during her many trips abroad.

But Hilton claims that in reality she is very different to her socialite persona - and only goes to events because she will collect a paycheque at the end of the evening.

She said, "When they see me at parties, I am actually getting paid to be there. There is no such thing as bad publicity." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Kidman compiles birth music

PEOPLE Nicole Kidman has created a music compilation for when she gives birth, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Oscar-winning actress — who is due to have her baby within the next two weeks — has chosen a selection of her favourite songs to help her during the delivery.

The tracks she has chosen include many by her husband, country singer Keith Urban, and Irish flautist Sir James Galway.

A source said: "Nicole has been putting together CDs of music to listen to during labour. She has always loved James Galway, particularly his classical albums.

"Whenever you go to her house, she has Galway on. There is one Prokofiev sonata that is her favourite."

Galway, 68 — who is considered the finest flautist of his generation — has recorded more than 60 albums, with his most famous song being instrumental version of John Denver's hit Annie's Song in 1978.

Kidman — who already has two adopted children, Isabella, 15, and 13-year-old Connor, with ex-husband Tom Cruise — has also reserved a private room at a hospital in Nashville, Tennessee as she wants the finest medical care. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

celebrity brief

Ledger theatre to be built in Perth

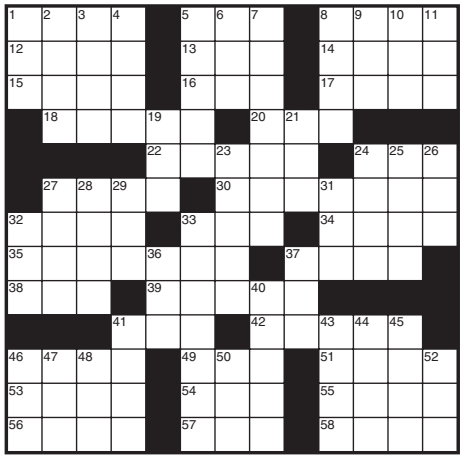
TRIBUTE Perth, Australia, is getting a new landmark: an $87-million US, 575-seat auditorium named for a native son, the Heath Ledger Theatre, People.com reports.

Western Australia state Premier Alan Carpenter said at a dedication ceremony yesterday that the name was appropriate, given how supportive the late actor had always been for fellow young performers, the Associated Press reports.

"Heath Ledger was totally dedicated to the craft of being an actor and that's what made him successful," Carpenter said. "I think what we're doing is continuing that support for young people who want to make a career in the arts and acting, stage and in film, whatever it happens to be." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Former American Idol contestant Kristy Lee Cook has inked a deal with 19 Recordings/Arista Nashville for an album debut, with her first single, 15 Minutes Of Shame, already getting an Aug. 11 release date. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

take five



Crossword across

1 Let slip
5 Ancient
8 Deep-voiced lady
12 Fat cat's friend
13 Kind of jacket
14 Cash, in Pretoria
15 Remove the rind
16 Long-tailed animal
17 Dove shelter
18 — — face (grimace)
20 Contented sigh
22 Spook
24 Diner coffee
27 Furry red Muppet
30 Wildflower habitats
32 Russian mountains
33 Faced
34 Luau strings
35 Junk mail
37 Unlucky time
38 Naval off.
39 Lax
41 — -de-sac
42 Window sill
46 Hunter's need
49 Ms. Thurman
51 Gutter site
53 Captain's command
54 Hoss, to Ben
55 Dueler's weapon
56 Opening
57 Cask
58 Gratuity

Crossword down

1 Summit
2 Imported cheese
3 Milan money, once
4 Onion cousin
5 Ms. Winfrey
6 Grassy field
7 Computer file (2 wds.)
8 Cats do it
9 Philosopher — -tzu
10 High explosive
11 Keats opus
19 I, to Caesar
21 — — disadvantage
23 Rolex rival
24 Prank
25 Gets in debt
26 Superman symbol
27 Gusto
28 Back muscles
29 She played Rosemary
31 Lead balloon
32 Queen beater
33 Shellfish
36 Baton Rouge campus
37 DDE's nickname
40 Ringing sound
41 Deal with it
43 Heart-felt
44 Stare at
45 Anon's companion
46 Fire residue
47 Electrical unit
48 Wire measure
50 "Simpsons" bartender
52 Cartoon shriek

previous day's answer ››

E	L	F	■	V	I	N	C	E	■	A	N	T
D	E	L	■	I	S	L	E	S	■	L	I	E
Y	O	U	B	E	T	■	E	S	C	A	P	E
■	■	K	I	D	■	U	S	E	R	S	■	■
A	P	E	D	■	N	M	■	N	A	K	E	D
D	E	S	■	C	A	P	S	■	W	A	D	E
O	K	■	A	T	R	I	U	M	S	■	G	E
P	O	D	S	■	C	R	I	B	■	M	E	R
T	E	A	C	H	■	E	T	■	J	A	D	E
■	■	B	O	A	R	D	■	F	A	R	■	■
S	U	B	T	L	E	■	B	A	N	K	E	R
A	T	E	■	L	U	X	O	R	■	E	R	A
G	A	D	■	S	P	I	N	E	■	R	E	P

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Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A dangerous task will crush frustration. A brave man faces the mystery in his reality. A conscience might cause a bad reaction.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Your politeness gets you emotional support. Reluctance can be dealt with. Those who are thwarted will challenge everything.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
It's time to search for more fun. Don't bicker with a loser. A bandit will suffer from a case of mistaken identity.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A passionate person has fine talents. Don't shed tears for a dreamer. A tale reminds you of something.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
You become aware of special circumstances. A person painfully finds out the truth. A challenger fails to appeal to others.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Leaders will want to get everything on paper. The past will become your future unless changes are made. Avoid a scam artist.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Find a reason to laugh with your friends. Don't accept someone's negative despair. You'll win something if you stay alert.

SCORPIO
OCT 24- NOV 22
Don't try to manipulate a romantic person. A former foe wants to visit you. Try to appear to be more fastidious.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23- DEC 21
Important info comes from an obscure dream. A sincere person affects your choices. Be on your best behaviour all day.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Enchantment will clear out the cobwebs of your heart. Spicy thoughts will lead to a lecture. A phone call leads to a truth chat.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Restful moments can be found, but not in company. Keep your secrets to yourself. A complicated person will pay you back.

PISCES
FEB 19-MAR 20
Don't become a stickler for details. Breathe in the air of freedom by releasing yourself. Taking time off will work wonders.

WORDY GURDY

This day in history

JULY 2, 1698: Thomas Savery patented the first steam engine

JULY 2, 1937: Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappear over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first equatorial round-the-world flight.

JULY 2, 1947: An object speculated to be a UFO crashes near Roswell, New Mexico, though the United States Air Force claims it is a weather balloon.

JULY 2, 1962: The first Wal-Mart store opens in Arkansas.

		4	3		6			
	6					7	1	
3	8				9	5		
8		9	4				6	
				6				
	4				8	1		2
		3	6				8	4
	2	1					5	
			5		7	2		

Sudoku

INSTRUCTIONS:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

8	7	6	2	3	5	1	9	4
4	3	2	1	9	7	6	8	5
5	1	9	6	8	4	3	2	7
3	6	8	9	7	2	5	4	1
2	4	1	3	5	8	9	7	6
9	5	7	4	1	6	2	3	8
1	2	4	7	6	9	8	5	3
7	8	3	5	2	1	4	6	9
6	9	5	8	4	3	7	1	2

SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:
Under 13 . . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21 . . . . . Smart
21-25 . . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practicing

Vancouver weather

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunny. 23°	Variable. Low 16°	60% Showers. 22°/ 15°	60% Rain. 20°/ 14°	60% Showers. 20°/ 15°

Temperature
Normals
High: 20.7°
Low: 11.9°

Records
High: 27.5°/1985
Low: 6.7°/1949

Sunrise: 5:12 a.m.
Sunset: 9:20 p.m.
Moonrise: 4:14 a.m.
Moonset: 9:39 p.m.

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